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Austin Nelson, Tim Miller, Justine Mink, Andrew Gerba and Scott Bierbryer were recently voted in as the new StuCo executive board.

'07-'08

Executive Board

President
Scott Bierbryer

Vice President for Student Life
Justine Mink

Vice President for Entertainment
Andrew Gerba

Treasurer
Austin Nelson

Secretary
Tim Miller

Phi Psi may lose house in battle with city

Fraternity looks to appeal re-zoning decision

By **LISA ELY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Phi Kappa Psi fraternity has decided to appeal a Baltimore City re-zoning ordinance affecting its second house, at 3906 Canterbury Road. The fraternity, commonly known as Phi Psi, aims to win back the right to rebuild the house as a fraternity residence.

In March 2005, the Phi Psi house received several citations from Baltimore County about the structural state of the house.

Because of delays in fundraising and renovations and long abandonment of the Canterbury Road house, Phi Psi has lost its exemption from the code, previously ensured by a grandfather clause under which they had been able to own the house since 1976. The grandfather clause permitted use of the house as a fraternity because the house was

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LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER
The Phi Kappa Psi fraternity brothers may never return to their house of over 30 years.

Fewer than 600 students vote in mostly quiet elections

By **KATLYN TORGERSON**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Student Council executive elections last weekend saw less than half of the student participation of last year, as campaigning was largely quiet and only one of the positions was contested.

The Student Council board for the coming year will include President Scott Bierbryer '08, Treasurer Austin Nelson '09, Secretary Tim Miller '10, Vice President

for Student Life Justine Mink '09, and Vice President for Entertainment Andrew Gerba '08.

The position of President was the only contested election, and Miller won his position as a write-in candidate with 86 votes.

Jeremy Batoff, chair of the Committee on Student Elections (CSE), attributed the low turnout to the fact that four of the five candidates ran unopposed.

"If you account for the fact that only one

position was contested, people just didn't feel the need to vote. Except for the position of President, their vote didn't matter," Batoff said.

He also suggested that the lack of student interest in running for positions was indicative of a larger issue of apathy within the university.

"This instance reflects a larger issue within the student body — they do a great job voicing their opinions to each other, but

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StuCo signs on to energy proposal after initial rejection

By **MARIE CUSHING**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Student Council voted nearly unanimously on Tuesday to adopt a revised letter written by the Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT) calling on the University to enact policies that would make the Homewood Campus carbon-neutral by 2015.

"I'm so happy right now," said Teryn Norris-Hale, a freshman and co-leader of HEAT, to fellow members as they celebrated outside of the Council room. Norris-Hale acted as spokesperson during the meeting, fielding questions from the Council.

"Hopefully, the letter will just express to [the deans] that this is an issue on the minds of the

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IR program ranked 19th in nation

By **WESLEY SUDDUTH**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The undergraduate International Studies program at Hopkins is the 19th best in the country, according to a study published in the influential *Foreign Policy* magazine's March/April issue. It was the first time that *Foreign Policy* has ranked undergraduate international relations (IR) programs.

The study, conducted by faculty at the College of William & Mary, polled nearly 1,200 international-relations scholars and professors across the United States, comprising over 41 percent of the field. The respondents were asked which five undergraduate programs they considered to be the best. In a listing of the top 20 undergraduate programs, Hopkins tied with Duke for 19th place. Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Georgetown and Columbia took the top five places, respectively.

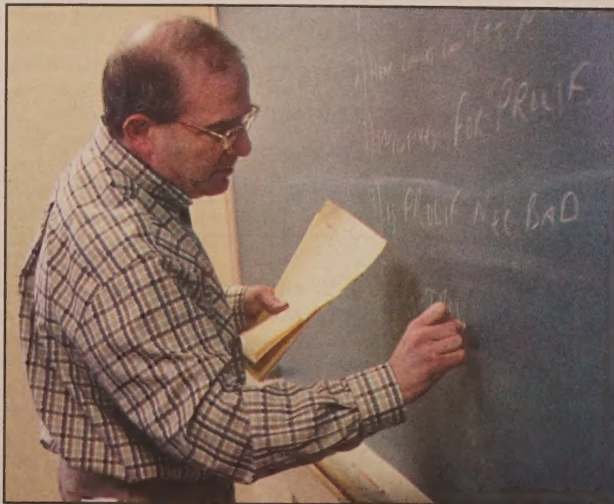
"I was disappointed by the results of the survey," said Steven David, director of Hopkins' international studies program. "But I think that it did not get an accurate measure of our program's strengths." While it is commonplace to attack studies that don't place a program in a positive light, in this case the study warrants an explanation, he said.

"I participated in the survey myself, and the undergraduate program question was only one

of a much broader 50-question survey. Considering that some of the schools ranked above us in the study don't even have specific International Relations programs, I don't think many of those surveyed had a good sense of the best programs. Most knew the graduate schools better," David said.

Hopkins performed better in the *Foreign Policy*'s ranking of master's degree and Ph.D. programs. The Nitze School for Advanced International Studies (SAIS), came in second behind Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, relinquishing

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LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER
The IR program, headed by professor Steven David, was ranked 19th in the nation.

As seniors look for jobs, questions remain over Career Center's efficacy

By **KATHERINE BREWER**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

With spring break over and graduation looming in the near future, many seniors are still jobless. Although many Hopkins seniors go straight to graduate school, the real world looms within months for many others.

Forty-four percent of Hopkins graduates have full-time employment, while another 42 percent are in graduate school. Only three percent of the students said they were still

searching for a job. These figures, provided by the Career Center, are from the class of 2005's post-graduate survey, completed in January 2006. The career center has no data on how satisfied graduates are with their jobs.

"Looking for a job is really scary," said Jaan Rannik, a senior studying German and classical guitar. "I think Hopkins does a good job supporting their students. A little bit can go a long way. I think the Career Center is helpful, although I should have used it more."

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SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Juniors and seniors have expressed disappointment with the effectiveness of Career Center fairs this year.

Adjuncts face professional, financial uncertainty

Untenured professors struggle to find their place on campus

By **AMANDA DIOS**
and **SAL GENTILE**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Whenever Nancy Forgione was told she wouldn't be teaching a course for the semester, one of the first things she had to do was return all of her library books.

As an adjunct professor in the History of Art department, Forgione, who died last fall of a meningococcal infection, lost all her library privileges whenever she was told she wouldn't have a course to teach. For a passionate teacher and lively academic who was popular with her students and who had received both her degrees from Hopkins, it was a strange and telling situation.

"The institution viewed her as a very part-time employee who had no job security, who had no benefits, who could learn in April that she didn't have a course in the fall and therefore lose her library privileges," said Michael Hill, her husband. "If she wanted to take [a book] out, she would have to ask a graduate student or a friend on the faculty to check it out for her."

Forgione's case was exceptional,
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NEWS

With StuCo approval, HEAT will present plan

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be happy with and are all proud to have just passed."

"The main issue was just that many people on Student Council were unfamiliar with the issue and didn't understand the enormous support this has from the student body," he said.

Laura Hansell, outgoing Student Council President, said that the major issue that council members had with the updated letter was the fact that it read "Sincerely, Student Council" at the bottom, although StuCo was not responsible for writing the letter. "We did this because we felt like it was not StuCo who drafted the letter, but HEAT," Hansell said. "Obviously the majority of StuCo agreed with what was written in the letter and felt like it should be passed on to Dean [of Student Life Susan] Boswell, [but] it is still not StuCo's issue."

"What I feel was so important was demonstrating to StuCo the unprecedented movement at Hopkins for policy change," Norris-Hale said. Part of this campaign for policy change involved the creation of petitions. "We have over 800 signatures and growing, and over 150 photo petitions. HEAT currently represents 20 student groups with over 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students."

"The letter still feels alarmist," said Will Pennant, the senior class Senator for Finance. He disagreed with the letter's claim that "scientific evidence concludes that our over-reliance on fossil fuels is causing the planet to warm at dangerous rates." Pennant said: "Global warming is not conclusive in the scientific community, and it's definitely not conclusive in the political community."

In response, Norris-Hale referenced a recent report stating with 90-percent certainty that humans are responsible for global warming. A report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, reviewed by more than 2,500 scientists worldwide, stated that if



HEAT members promoted their cause on the Breezeway. The group's carbon neutrality proposal was approved by StuCo.

current human activity continues at the same pace, ocean levels will rise somewhere between 7 and 23 inches over the next century.

The motion was then made to change the language of the letter from "the scientific evidence concludes" to "the scientific evidence suggests". The motion was defeated after a narrow vote of 13 to 14, with two members abstaining. Pennant said that perhaps Student Council could present the letter to the University administration with a separate letter stating the Council felt it would be important for the deans to look at this issue.

Other council members disagreed with Pennant. "I feel like we'd be diluting our power on campus," junior Zach Moor said. "We already struggle with being seen as mediators and facilitators instead of a source of power."

"In my opinion, StuCo does carry weight with the administration, and we're fully aware of this so we try to take that responsibility seriously," Hansell said. "I think Zach was saying that we need to try and assess how the student body felt about the issue, regardless of how

we individually felt."

"Dean Boswell has given us 100 percent support, and we have support from over 2,000 kids on campus. She said that we need the support of the Student Council to show the other deans that this is serious," Norris-Hale said. He and Blake Hough, a senior and co-head of HEAT, had met the day before with Boswell and President Brody's executive assistant, Jerry Schnydmann. "He was very supportive," Norris-Hale said, who stated that Schnydmann's only concerns were "cost and feasibility."

Another council member suggested adding sources to the letter to help HEAT's cause. Norris-Hale noted that the previous letter had included such information, but members of StuCo had expressed concerns about signing onto such a letter if they themselves had not reviewed the data sources.

The final vote of 27 to 1 in favor of supporting the letter, with Pennant voting against and Hansell abstaining, was met with applause by both council members and the dozen HEAT representatives who

attended the meeting. Pennant declined to comment further on his position. As StuCo president, Hansell said she is "constitutionally obliged to abstain in all votes except in the event of a tie."

Hansell sent an electronic copy of the letter with the council's notation of support to Dean Boswell today.

Upcoming HEAT events include co-hosting the Phi Kappa Psi beach party and a rally to be held on the Beach next Tuesday, where author Mike Tidwell, founder and leader of Chesapeake Climate Action Network, will speak on the role of college students in finding solutions to climate change.

Norris-Hale said that major action, however, still remains in the hands of the administration, who will make their decision in mid-April as the letter explains. "The opportunity to demonstrate leadership and responsibility is right now. Scientists say that if we are to mitigate the worst impacts of climate change we must stabilize emissions. The community and the press are looking for the administration to act."

Phi Psi fraternity will not be welcomed home

Fraternity brothers may be unable to move back into their newly renovated house of over 30 years due to city's zoning laws

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owned by the Beta Theta Pi fraternity before the new zoning codes for residency had been initiated.

"When you abandon property that is Class III non-conforming use, and you abandon it for a year, you lose the use," said Mary Pat Clarke, Baltimore City Council Representative for District 14.

Although sufficient funds for renovations were eventually raised, the deadline for the grandfather clause was missed. The official vacant status of the house was set in September 2005, and the county required that construction begin by Oct. 14, 2006 to maintain lawful residency of the house. But because of the extended time needed to raise renovation money, construction began two days late, on October 16th.

"We started construction too late to get the grandfather clause. Now we can't build it in the old style, we'd have to build apartments, which would be much more expensive," said Phi Psi president J.R. Yarbrough.

"We're appealing to the Tuscany Canterbury Neighborhood Association for support," he said.

On April 17th, the fraternity has a meeting the Baltimore City Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals, and they hope to win back the rights to rebuild their house in its original state.

Phi Psi indicated high hopes for neighborhood support.

"Most of the neighbors are ambivalent. They don't care, and we don't bother them. When we hold events, they always get plenty of advance notice, and we hire private security. We keep things to a low roar," Yarbrough said.

Neighbors of the fraternity, however, disagreed.

"I've only lived here several months, but I've heard stories. There have been a lot of complaints, and I don't think having a frat here is compatible with the neighborhood. A frat belongs

close to a campus, but not in the middle of a substantial residential neighborhood," an anonymous neighbor said.

Originally, Phi Psi planned to raise money for several months, then renovate the house quickly and move back in after less than a year. But the renovation estimates kept on increasing, from the original estimate of \$400,000 to almost \$750,000, and the renovations did not start soon enough.

"We already had plans for structural renovations before the citations. There was already a general consensus to raise money for a few months and make changes to the house," Yarbrough said.

"Our plan has two phases. Phase One started this past fall, and the plan included a brand-new roof, gutting out the interior, and getting ready for actual renovations. Because of the re-zoning, Phase Two hasn't started yet," he said.

Yarbrough explained that the national organization helped to organize money fund-raising and rose nearly half a million dollars. The Hopkins chapter of Phi Psi raised an additional \$250,000 to reach their fund-raising target.

Rob Turning, the coordinator of Greek Life at Hopkins, said that the University cannot intervene in an issue regarding property disputes because the house in question is not owned by Hopkins.

"Unfortunately, since the house is owned by a Phi Psi housing corporation of alumni, Johns Hopkins University is not able to intervene or give support. But we've been asked to attend the appeals meeting, and we'll be there to help mediate the situation and give both sides informa-

tion," Turning said.

The Canterbury Rd. house has 16 bedrooms and 17,000 square feet — the largest among the fraternities at Hopkins. As the fraternity has grown, members have expressed hopes to move out of their smaller, current house.

Regardless of neighborhood complaints, Yarbrough believes the fraternity could be a benefit to the community.

"We have always tried to be respectful of the neighborhood and the TCNA, and I think we've been a lively addition to the community that's beneficial to society. We tried to help the neighborhood, rake leaves for the elderly, and do community service. We're young and vibrant, and some of our biggest supporters are professors living in that neighborhood," Yarbrough said.

Turning agreed with the sentiment and said that preconceived notions of fraternities like Phi Psi

are undeserved.

"I know that fraternities in general have a bad rap, but the neighbors need to remember that these boys are someone's sons, they're not monsters or unapproachable. A lot of the stuff they do, like the noise and the trash, they don't do it to annoy neighbors, but because of ignorance of what's acceptable," Turning said.

Phi Psi has a contingency plan entailing purchase of a small apartment building if the zoning commission does not accept the appeal.

"We have money and a lot of growth of the undergrads, and we're growing up to size, almost as big as Pike. It depends on the energy of the alumni what happens next," Yarbrough said.

However, because of the moratorium on sophomore exemption, it would be difficult for the fraternity to fill the entire house.

Phi Psi nonetheless has high hopes for its appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

"My pledge class was the last pledge class to live in that house. I remember looking forward to living in that house. We're losing what made the house so great. We're trying to keep that alive, and we're hoping they'll give us another try," Yarbrough said.

ERRATA

In the March 22 issue of the *News-Letter*, the article entitled "Most StuCo candidates will run unopposed," misattributed the quote: "A lot of people aren't aware that there are elections. I think that there should be a better job done in informing people early," to Jeremy Batoff.

In the March 22 issue of the *News-Letter*, the article, "Charles, Blackstone to be vacated by May 31," said that students would be offered spaces in the Charles Commons, while it should have said that students who need to remain in Baltimore over the summer will be offered, as available, short-term or long-term leases in other university-owned properties such as the Dell House, apartments on Charles Street and Charles Commons. It should also have said that the management company operating the Charles and Blackstone can help with summer relocation to other properties that it manages.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

Seniors disgruntled with career support

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"In general, attendance at Career Center events has been higher than past years," said Mark Presnell, the director of the Career Center. "Our career preparation programs continue to be well attended as are our career information series of panel discussions."

These panels aimed to inform students of jobs that they can get with different majors. The career preparation programs describe how students can "break into" different types of careers.

The Career Center also held two career fairs, a general one in the fall, and a science and technology fair in the spring. Presnell said both of these fairs saw "higher student turn-out than previous years."

"Although the Public Service and Non-Profit Career Fair this spring saw a lower turnout despite a significant increase in the number of organizations attending, the Career Center has no plans on canceling that event. In fact, we are committed to providing counseling services, events and programs for all students," Presnell said.

The Career Center did, however, cancel two events this year. The first, a discussion of academic job searches, was canceled because the panelists were unavailable, while the second, "What to do with a foreign language major," was cancelled due to the weather.

"I've tried to use the career center, especially when I was an underclassman to see if I could get internships or jobs, but since I was looking to do something in Nebraska, my home state, they didn't have anything available," said senior Alena Balasanova, a psychology and Spanish double major. "Their web-search tool, MonsterTrak, is skewed. Most of what is offered is in large metropolitanises such as New York or Chicago, and I was looking for something closer to home. I get e-mails all the time about recruiters coming but once again — they are mostly from the east and west coasts."

"I really wish the Career Center would make an effort to entice recruiters to come from Midwestern states, because many large corporations are based there also," Balasanova continued. "I did use the Career Center for help with my resume earlier this year, and the career counselor I met with was very helpful and professional. Ironically I wasn't able to use that resumé for any of the jobs they advertised though!"

Presnell said that he tries to respond to all feedback. He won't start to collecting data on this senior class until April, but he expects positive reviews. "We solicit thoughts beginning in April via the post-graduate survey. Separately, we survey students who visit the Career Center and meet with a counselor. Our results are overwhelmingly positive about their experience."

"I've used the Career Center somewhat," said senior economics major Shivank Gupta. "But not as much as I could have or should have. I wish I had used

their resources more. I definitely feel the Career Center is always trying to reach out to their students via e-mail and such and trying to give everyone opportunities for on-campus recruiting and providing corporate events on campus.

"I think [students] should really focus the majority of their job search on the Career Center," added Gupta, who is looking for a career in consulting or business development, but hasn't found one yet. "But they should also make sure they explore external avenues as well because the Career Center doesn't and can't cover everything that's out there. I think the Career Center does a great job giving you literature or directing you in your research as to what you want in your career, and that's a big part of the battle, from then on I think a student should split their time evenly between Career Center opportunities and external opportunities."

Chunwoo Kae, a senior film major feels differently: "I have used the Career Center but for a film major it doesn't help at all. They're better at helping to find jobs in finance and engineering and corporate stuff." Kae has secured a job in television production but said he did so without the help of the Career Center.

Presnell recognizes that the Career Center cannot do everything and admits that liberal arts majors tend to find it less helpful: "Liberal arts majors sometimes have a more difficult time translating a major into a career goal which can make job search more difficult. We strive to provide programs and services for all students. Different fields often require significantly different search techniques and strategies. Some fields have significantly greater presence on campus simply by the nature of their recruiting mechanism."

Presnell does say there is a typical plan most seniors can follow: "In general, a comprehensive job search consists of three parts: First, making a list of employers and contacting them directly; second, networking with alumni and other professionals; third, responding to postings, attending career fairs and participating in recruiting. It is a balance of those three strategies that increases success for students."

Presnell cited two public service and non-profit career fairs in Baltimore and New York and five other off-campus career fairs as some of the most important services offered to liberal arts majors. The Career Center has also co-sponsored panels on how to break into museum careers, writing careers, teaching and public health.

"I have used the Career Center," senior Amanda Thurm said, "I currently think the Career Center is helpful." Thurm added that in the past she has found it less helpful, but has seen an improvement. "I think that JHU does support seniors and that they are trying to make more connections to help seniors in the years to come."

IR Director David displeased with new program ranking

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its top spot from a similar study conducted for *Foreign Policy* for the November/December 2005 issue. It was also ranked No. 12 for Ph.D. programs, up from No. 13 in the 2005 study.

When asked if anything in the Hopkins undergraduate program will change due to the survey results, David responded, "It is dangerous when changing a program to be whipsawed by various surveys. It has to be based on more substantive critiques. In other surveys, we've been ranked as high as number two. We have one of the oldest programs in the country, one of first of its kind, taught by a superb faculty and with an excellent student body."

Emily Jones, a sophomore International Studies major, was unimpressed with the study.

"In some sense I don't think that rankings are always accurate because they don't show you how you'll fit into the program as an individual," she said.

But she also noted that the study has not been repeated, and suggested that it might become more accurate with time.

"Based on the internships I've had, I feel like I am better prepared than the other people I was working with," she said.

"Based on that, how could we rank so low?"

The International Studies major, often referred to as "IR" by undergraduates and even professors for the more common "International Relations," is one of the most popular among Arts and Sciences students.

Paula Burger, dean of Undergraduate Education, was unavailable for comment.

NEWS

Adjuncts face the challenges of temporary employment

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both because she had been a loyal teacher and student at Hopkins for years and because her tenuous position with the department was her only job. But her situation was nonetheless indicative of the way many adjunct professors are treated at Hopkins and elsewhere.

"For some people it's an advantage and for some it's a disadvantage," said Stephen Campbell, chair of the History of Art department. "The workload for a person in the tenured track is greater than for those that are non-tenured."

Many of the adjunct professors who work for the University are part-time professors who do it in conjunction with another job. But Forgione's case was different.

Hill recalled the times that Forgione would find out she didn't have a class for the next semester, saying he and his family were often left in financial limbo as a result.

"[It meant] that all our home finances, with two kids in college and tuition to pay, were thrown off," he said. "Our whole life as a family [was] thrown upside down because of this."

Although Campbell believes that tenured professors have more benefits because they have more responsibility, he admitted that there should be some changes made to the adjunct policy.

"They could at least have an office and some job security," he said. "I thought returning the library books was ridiculous."

Adam Falk, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, said he was concerned with the treatment of adjunct professors.

"I think the school does have a responsibility to make sure people who develop rich relationships with the student body and the school, that the structure of the job evolves a way to recognize that," he said. "I think that is something we need to think a little harder about."

Falk recognized that adjunct professors are important to the university and defended the University's treatment of them.

"We have the smallest faculty and student body of a major research university, and that means that in order to offer the most interesting diverse possible set of courses, we have to go beyond our tenure-track faculty. We turn to adjunct faculty," he said.

"It is our responsibility to make sure that adjunct faculty are not treated in an exploited way. I think that it is very important that that not be the case. I don't believe that we do that here."

Scott Boggess, an adjunct professor in the economics department, agreed that the benefits weren't as great as they were for tenured faculty, but said he was personally unwilling to make the sacrifices that tenured professors are required to make.

"I don't love research enough, and you have to be willing to sacrifice the rest of your life in the name of research, and I am not willing to do that," he said. "I've got kids and I'm not in a position to work the 65-70 hour weeks that I would have to put in to be successful at a place like Hopkins. I'd rather spend that time with my family."

Boggess isn't worried about job security, because he has other employment. Nonetheless, there are some things he would like changed if he weren't an adjunct professor.

"If I held my ground and said I'm only going to teach if I have a class of 30 students, the University might decide it's just not worth the money," he said.

The situation leaves some instructors feeling less like members of the Hopkins community and more like expendable assets.

"You're only as good as your next course, and if you don't have a course, you don't exist," Hill said. "I don't think that this was the way [Forgione] was perceived by the students."

New board aims to bolster StuCo's legitimacy

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students and important to us," said Laura Hansell, a senior and president of StuCo. "Essentially, it opens the dialog from between the administration and HEAT to potentially the administration and the student body, or at least student council."

HEAT originally approached the Student Council to request their support earlier in the year, and were voted down. "There we some understandable concerns expressed by the student council, so we worked closely with them over the past months to draft a new letter," Norris-Hale said. "Now we have a draft we could all they need to improve with regard to working with the administration and taking direct action," Batoff said.

Bierbryer, the former Student Activities Commission (SAC) chair and incoming StuCo president, says he intends to address issues ranging from StuCo legitimacy and accessibility to event funding.

Increasing accessibility, he says, includes creating a functional and up-to-date Web site and also by creating regular office hours during which anyone can meet with StuCo representatives at their office in the Mattin Center.

Bierbryer also stresses the importance of Student Council in influencing university policy. StuCo recently endorsed an initiative by the Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT) to prompt the University to pursue a "Responsible Energy Policy."

"It is not our job to decide what is best, but we must make sure that important issues are heard by the administration and should push for a student referendum if the issue is large enough," he said.

He stressed the importance of direct and active contact between StuCo and other student groups. "I hope that we can gain more contact with groups so we can stress our desire to support the views of the student body and create a sense of legitimacy in gaining a StuCo endorsement," Bierbryer said.

Students have shown some concern about the fact that four-fifths of the board will consist of members of the same fraternity, but Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell is not concerned. "I have never felt that members of a group have a single agenda and I think each of these individuals will approach the job from his own perspective," she said.

Gerba, at least, thinks that being a fraternity brother will help him do a better job as Vice President for Entertainment. He wants to use his experiences in the Greek scene to improve the quality and variety of entertainment on campus.

"Utilize what you have — this is the situation that I'm in and I want to utilize it," Gerba said. He wants to help fraternities and sororities provide more campus-wide entertainment, since they have their own individual funding.

"There is no reason that affiliation with any one group should cause some type of concern, rather than open up the potential for something good to happen," Gerba said.

Gerba understands that many students believe Student Council

seems to get little accomplished, and he attributes it in part to the Executive Board. He says he has a number of goals, but abstained from mentioning them all for fear of disappointing students in the future. Aside from just working to get Greek organizations on campus to work with Student Council, he also wants to work to get the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) more involved.

"They have a lot of strong ideas, but a lot of them never get off the ground ... we'll just see what the administration will allow us to do," he said. Ideally, Gerba would have the student body realize that "school isn't all about sitting in the library and studying — there's more to it than that."

Miller, the freshman write-in candidate for Secretary and three-time high school class president, hopes

that he represents a part of the student body that is not always included in the Executive Board.

"Many ideas have been said, but have not been heard ... I believe that this is my opportunity to take action and help Hopkins become a better place for everyone," Miller said.

As Vice President for Student

Life, Mink's goal is to "act as the voice of the students," communicating with the administration to make their decisions more accessible to the students.

"I hope to be able to make the StuCo more publicly involved in the day-to-day issues of the students," she said. Mink also thinks that students are generally unaware of StuCo's accomplishments. "I hope to change that," she said.

Mink does not think that she will have any difficulty having her voice heard, even though she is the only female on the board and the only one who is not a member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity.

"We were all elected to represent the entire student body so regardless of whatever other groups, activities, interests, or organizations we belong to, our job is to serve [the students]," she said.

As Treasurer, Nelson's most important responsibility will be working with the SAC to appropriate funding for student groups. He believes that his job will be simple next year given the changes that were made under the watch of Bierbryer.

One of the problems that he intends to fix is related to the spending caps placed on certain budgets by the administration. The \$2,000 limit on transportation budget, for example, acts as an extreme hindrance for student groups. He hopes to resolve the problem without amending the Student Council constitution.

I hope to be able to make the StuCo more publicly involved in the day-to-day issues of the students.

— JUSTINE MINK, SOPHOMORE

Classifieds

Spring Break
w/ STS to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas and Florida.

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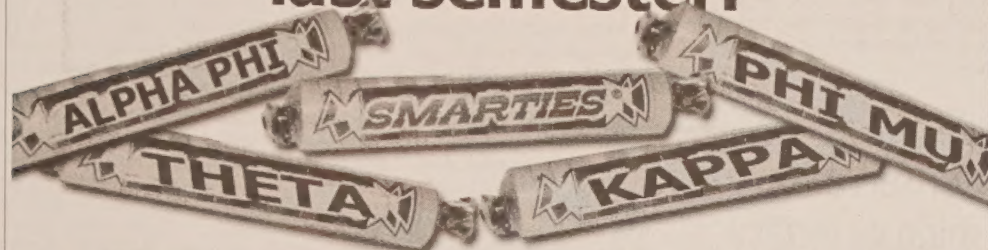
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131

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EDITORIAL

New life for StuCo

It looks like Student Council has finally got the picture. After a less-than-stellar election, various attempts at political leadership and a collision with what has arguably become this campus' most influential collection of activists, the Council has finally taken a good first step toward being a more productive and useful voice for students.

But there is still a long way to go. Last week-end's elections saw a dismal turnout that was nearly half that of a year ago, and a litany of problems (named by Student Council itself) continues to go unresolved.

But with some much-needed electoral turnover and an injection of energetic idealism, there is reason to be optimistic.

Scott Bierbryer, the Council's incoming President, is a particular breath of fresh air. As former StuCo treasurer and chairman of the Student Activities Commission (SAC), he is well qualified for the tasks ahead. In his previous capacities, he was forced to do something that StuCo has had great difficulty with in the past: Make decisions. He interacted with students and administrators and, along with fellow SAC members, oversaw the distribution of hundreds of thousands of dollars to student organizations. The SAC, while certainly far from perfect, is a productive group in which Bierbryer has shown considerable leadership.

Bierbryer also told the *News-Letter* last week that one of his biggest priorities will be directing the Council's attention away from the party-planning and administrative elbow-rubbing of the past and toward areas of real need. A focus on policy is much needed after all these years.

What we are most hopeful for is a break in

the vicious cycle in which StuCo has operated in recent years. The Council spends the year twiddling its thumbs, students become cynical about its capacity to effect change and when elections come around, few feel compelled to run or vote. An institutional shift is in order. This year's Council has finally begun that long-delayed battle against inertia, and we are looking forward to seeing it continued.

However, in order for StuCo to become truly viable, it needs to begin thinking and acting with confidence. It cannot compel the administration to consider student interests unless it is taken seriously at the highest levels of the University. And it won't be taken seriously by the administration until it is respected by students.

How can StuCo achieve what is, essentially, a mandate? One way is by advertising its assemblies more widely and inviting students to share their opinions more often. A town meeting system would go towards encouraging students to speak up. StuCo should also organize referenda on issues of significance in order to show students that it cares about and will respond directly to their desires. In addition, it should reach out to student organizations and build a broad coalition of student support, much the way HEAT has. Bierbryer's experience in this regard will be beneficial.

2007-2008 will be a rebuilding year for StuCo. The foundation is shaky; it must be buttressed by real achievement and successful advocacy on the part of students. The goal should be to inject StuCo with some long-awaited vitality and clarity of mission. Then, perhaps, we will have a strong student government to represent us when decisions that affect our lives are under debate.

Problems with IR persist

The recent study that placed Hopkins' undergraduate International Studies at 19th in the nation might raise some eyebrows among students and faculty alike. We were not even aware that so many universities had designated undergraduate international relations programs.

The results of the survey, of course, amount to little. College ranking is an absurd concept and always has been. This week, several smaller colleges made their opposition to the practice known and we support that perspective. While we are disappointed that Hopkins will probably not take a stand against the rankings, particularly the inordinately powerful *U.S. News and World Report* list, we also understand that the University's hands are, for the most part, firmly tied. To defect from the rankings would be a death knell for a University that competes for students with better-known Ivy League institutions.

However, while we feel that these IR program rankings lack credibility, the poor showing is not entirely at odds with reality. IR at Hopkins is unquestionably problematic.

The most significant difficulty facing the students and program is generally the lack of full-time faculty devoted to the subject. Only four full-time political science faculty devote their energies exclusively to the International Stud-

ies program. They are all extremely capable and well-qualified scholars. They have devoted student followings, impressive bodies of work and a tireless commitment to teaching and study.

But, as of the fall of 2006, IR was, with 240 declared majors, the most popular discipline within the School of Arts & Sciences. Can four professors really handle that load? The answer is no, which is why the IR program relies on visiting professors and those who specialize in comparative politics to make up much of the IR curriculum. But the fields are not the same and IR students are under-served as a result. Classes are too large and the number of offerings too few. The dearth of professors is probably an even greater strain on graduate students who work closely with individual faculty.

If the University is going to have an IR program, it should be one that complies with the standards of excellence that we have come to expect from other majors offered here. The good news is that the student body is not a limiting factor in this instance. If the political science department is able to hire more IR faculty, students will certainly take advantage of them. Many IR majors are unsure what exactly they are doing in the discipline, but many more are dedicated to the field and would leap at the opportunity to take part in an enhanced curriculum.

With careers, help is hard to find

For a university that produces graduates as career-focused as those at Hopkins, it is surprising that the Career Center is not a more effective resource for graduating seniors and others seeking jobs and internships. While the Career Center ideally should bolster students' chances of encountering exciting job opportunities, this year it has seen some gaffes in its schedule of events. More importantly, the Center has also revealed genuine disparities between the resources available for science and engineering students and those for humanities and social-science majors. The paucity of resources for the latter group should be a focus of improvement in the coming year.

There have been decidedly mixed reviews of the three major career fairs held by the Center. The general career fair — which, held in the fall, focuses as much on internships and part-time jobs as it does on full-time employment opportunities — and the spring science and technology fair saw rising attendance among students. The recruitment opportunities for students interested in engineering, finance or science jobs are refreshingly abundant, with e-mails announcing new recruiting opportunities every week.

But in comparison, the resources for students interested in jobs outside of finance, engineering or scientific research are severely lacking. The only targeted career fair in this category, the Public Service and Non-Profit Career Fair, failed to draw large numbers of attending students

this year. Although Career Center administrators claim that this particular event offered an increase in the numbers of organizations, several of these recruiters failed to show up on the day of the fair. The employment opportunities offered at the fair also surprisingly skewed toward unpaid internships and volunteer positions — hardly helpful for a graduating senior seeking a full-time entry-level job.

In addition, both Career Center events cancelled this year — one a panel on academic job searches, and the other titled "What to do with a foreign language major" — have significant implications for humanities students. Considering the number of academics and foreign-language experts who populate this campus, it is a mystery as to why the two panels were not rescheduled.

The smaller number of direct recruitment opportunities for liberal-arts students is certainly not an indictment of the Career Center as a whole, which has made strides in recent years toward publicizing their events and encouraging students to take advantage of the helpful career counselors. But when Hopkins students find themselves having to board a bus to catch Columbia University's more exhaustive job fair, perhaps it is time for the University to whip our languishing Career Center into shape. The students here deserve an office that is a primary resource to turn to during their job search, not a last resort.

What a powerful man can do

President Brody's recent upgrade in Baltimore prominence ("Local magazine ranks Brody most powerful man in Baltimore," 3/22/07) underscores his powerful role not only at the command of a world-class research university but as an influential player in the Baltimore community.

After years of contention and distance from the residents of Baltimore, Johns Hopkins has the opportunity to set an example to the great city of Baltimore for its wisdom and foresight. President Brody should show the community that we care about the health of the neighborhood children and the longevity of the Baltimore elderly by signing onto HEAT's Responsible Energy Policy 2015.

Our over-reliance on dirty coal power and our oil-burning smoke-stack has a direct negative impact on the health of our students and local residents. By endorsing the Responsible Energy Policy 2015, President Brody will regain the city's respect for Johns Hopkins as a shining example of clean energy use.

Kevin Pai
Freshman

Conservatism's spiritual legacy

I agree with Sal Gentile's call for a restoration of the political legacy of men like Abraham Lincoln ("Rescuing campus conservatism," 3/22/07.) But let's not rewrite history. Lincoln's public policy was rooted in his belief that we are "one nation under God." Consider the following:

"It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, and to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in Holy Scripture, and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord ...

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which has preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become

too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

Yahnatan Lasko
Senior

Remembering a lost teammate

As a friend and teammate of Jonas Fester's, I would like to say a few things about a recent *News-Letter* article written about him ("Where there's smoke, there's Fester," 3/22/07.) While Jonas may have a bit of a swagger and an attitude, it is these tools that have helped him become one of the most successful shortstops in Hopkins Baseball history.

One thing Jonas mentioned that was not included in the article is that the baseball team is dedicating this season to the late Mike Durgala.

Mike was tragically killed in a car accident last August while driving back to Baltimore from a baseball camp. He graduated from Hopkins in 2005 and was a former player and assistant coach here. His loss has been felt deeply by all members of the Hopkins Baseball community — Mike either played with or coached every member of the current team except for the freshman class. His oft-told joke of "It's OK; we'll win a national championship next year," in reference to players not giving their all during drills or weightlifting, has become a very real goal for this year. Mike's absence is difficult to ignore, especially now that the season is in progress.

Jonas' hard work at becoming a better player and the work of the rest of the team and coaching staff has all been done with the goal of having a successful season in memory of Mike. All of us hope that this will be the "next year"

that Mike so often joked about.

Colin Ray
Sophomore

StuCo gearing up for new year

This is in response to your reports on StuCo elections. We agree the process was handled poorly, however this experience demonstrates that StuCo needs to take a more active role in working with the CSE to publicize the elections and to ensure that the CSE fulfills its role as an impartial election authority. We would like to work with the *News-Letter* to better publicize the elections, the candidates and their agendas to make the process less of a "7th-grade election" and instead a more transparent and serious endeavor.

Unfortunately, we have not done the best job of publicizing our efforts this year; however, that does not diminish the impact or importance of these actions. Some of the highlights of this year include: housing facility improvements, campus security and changes to dining facility operations. While the *News-Letter* has been highly critical of our stance on certain issues, we recently supported HEAT's proposal and are actively seeking to advocate on behalf of more student initiatives. Some issues StuCo will be addressing include: curriculum, study abroad, students' rights and free speech on campus.

We strongly encourage students as well as the *News-Letter* to attend our weekly meetings so that the student body can be better informed of our function and, more important, contribute to the process. We believe that this would allow the *News-Letter* to be better informed in their reports to the student body.

Weekly meetings are held in the Shriver Hall Board Room at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Student Council

LETTERS POLICY

The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and can not be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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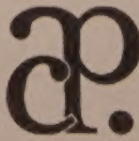
The Johns Hopkins *News-Letter* is published every Thursday during the academic year by the students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of the *News-Letter*.

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before the Thursday of publication. Subscriptions are available to our readers for \$35 per semester, \$70 for the full academic year. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody, Downtown Center), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 6,200.

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OPINIONS

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Carey Polis

The curious catharsis of really bad TV

Three point seven million men and women across the United States, including myself, should hang their heads in shame. Every Monday evening at 9 p.m. (or during one of the many re-runs), we watch very irritating and stupid men compete for the affection of a more irritating and stupider woman and the approval of her even worse mother. I'm not sure what I'm more upset about: that *I Love New York* exists in the first place, or that I take time out of my day to watch it. I'm fairly confident that the more I watch, the more brain cells I forever lose.

For those of you who have not yet succumbed to the mind-numbing hour-long pseudo-orgy of New York (everyone on the show has a nickname; her real name is Tiffany) trying her "best" not to cave into her apparently uncontrollable sexual impulses, here is some background. New York wants to find true love after the rapper Flava Flav, of Public Enemy fame, rejected her not once but twice in the earlier VH1 series-*Flavor of Love* and *Flavor of Love 2*. She made it to the finale both times, but was a bit too aggressive for his style — "I'm the man, I wear the pants," he said, while she was a self-described HBIC (Head Bitch In Charge). Poor girl, her heart was broken by a man in a plastic Viking helmet who wore giant clocks around his neck.

Not to worry, however. New York now has men fawning over her and the power to choose who stays and who goes. It is no easy task, made evident by the many tears she sheds when she has two choices left but three great guys. How touching.

The male contestants easily fill stereotypical roles — the rebel, the sensitive one, the ladies' man — and have made it fairly clear that they are on the show to get their 15 minutes. New York repeatedly insists that she is looking for real love, and the guys feed her lines to that effect. Everyone has ulterior motives though. And maybe New York really just does have horrendous taste in men. Still, I maintain that the entire series is a farce from start to finish. Nonetheless, as viewers, we just keep watching the continuing train wreck.

There is no value whatsoever to watching this show, save maybe the ego-boost of knowing that I am not nearly as lame or stupid or inarticulate as any one of those contestants, or even New York herself. So, as I ask myself every week, what it the allure? How did this show become the most watched series debut in VH1 history? Why does it keep breaking Nielsen ratings records? Am I so hungry for self-esteem that I am willing to subject myself to an hour of boxing matches, male beauty pageants and dinners with the contestant's ex-girlfriends?

Yes, yes I am. For me, watching *I Love New York* is an act of selfishness. I watch the show with bad intentions. I genuinely hope that New York doesn't find love, because I don't think she deserves it. I think she is rude and whiny. I don't want any of the men to find love either because they are self-involved and childish.

That being said, in order to fully understand the magnetism of *I Love New York* for fellow viewers, I spent way too much time browsing all the contestants' MySpace pages. Apparently, Mr. Boston wants to get his own spin-off show, Whiteboy works at the "best" pawn shop in Miami and 12-Pack's sexuality is still somewhat questionable. On all of their pages, they have hundreds of posts from adoring fans saying how great they were on the show.

Since the advent of reality television, there has been something attractive about watching "regular" people become overnight celebrities. We cheer on the good ones (come on, who doesn't love Kelly Clarkson?) and hate the bad ones. We invest more in reality TV because deep down, we see a little bit of them in us.

But I watch *I Love New York* because the people are unrecognizable. I watch to remind myself of what I should never become. Most of all, I watch because everyone needs to feel good about themselves once in a while. And, if men getting into constant brawls, parading around in speedos and playing princess with little girls is too low-brow for you, then pass the remote my way, because I think New York's synthetic hair might have just caught on fire.

— Carey Polis is a senior Writing Seminars major from Bethesda, Md.

China's Olympic flame fueled by abuse

By KAVANAUGH LIVINGSTON

What is the true cost of a ticket to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games? It can be measured in money, but also in grant violations of such basic rights as freedom from fear, freedom from oppression and even the right to legally own a home.

On July 15, 2001, just two days after the city won the honor of hosting the 2008 Olympic Games, the government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) began forcing people out of their homes in preparation for the spectacle. The Beijing Municipality has evicted over 400,000 residents as a result of the 2008 Olympics, replacing well-established historical communities with shopping centers, office buildings, expensive residential buildings and sports facilities.

Moreover, the Olympic games are only one potentially damaging catalyst for development in China. From 1990 to 2002, more than 66 million Chinese farmers lost their land to their government as part of the PRC's "Master Plan." The majority of these lands — even privately owned ones — were taken by force with little or no compensation. Corruption in the courts, police intimidation and vicious beatings of protestors, incarceration and harassment of housing rights activists, have all effectively prevented any tangible opposition to the Chinese government's harmful development practices.

Fortunately, despite the so-called "apathetic" nature of Homewood Campus, students at Johns Hopkins have decided to get involved and act in a small yet immediate way to highlight these blatant PRC-sponsored human rights violations leading up to next year's Olympic games. Until April 1st, there will be a photo exhibit displayed in the F. Jones Building of the Mattin Center titled, "The Road to Modern Glory." The exhibit aims to inform attendees of the destructive toll of the Beijing Olympics and the PRC's



MATT HANSENNEWS-LETTER

brutal methods of achieving economic development.

However, there is another side to this story. The Chinese government has not completely ignored the criticism directed its way. The PRC recently announced a law that will increase private property protection rights. The following week, China's National People's Congress passed it. This law, although much delayed, represents significant progress towards promoting urban development that at least begins to protect basic human rights, such as the right to be secure in ownership of one's property.

But one law will not immediately change how the Chinese government deals with human rights. Severe violations of basic freedoms, constant government denial of wrongdoing, a

fragile legal structure and police brutality are the status quo in the PRC. The Chinese government promised that it would improve its human rights record if granted the 2008 Olympics. However, when looking at the pictures in the exhibit, this promise appears unfulfilled.

It seems paradoxical that the same Olympic Games that are supposed to help democratize and liberalize the PRC are causing further violations of human rights. Thus, while I in no way advocate a boycott of the 2008 Olympic games and believe the exhibit should not spur people to that conclusion, I do hope that it will promote increased thought about and effort towards democratization and liberalization the PRC.

If preparations for the 2008 Beijing Olympics have not served to promote

democracy in the People's Republic of China, then there is still time to consider and implement new methods that will do so. A process between the West and the PRC that grants the PRC increased benefits in the areas of international trade and economic or technological development in return for better treatment of Human Rights can still be implemented. If the international community acts now, then in 2008 there may be a Beijing Olympiad that promotes the ideal of goodwill within and between the nations that the Modern Olympic Games stand for.

Kavanaugh Livingston is a freshman International Studies major from Singapore. She coordinated the exhibit "The Road to Modern Glory."

Exaggerating the dangers of global warming

By DUSTIN LUSHING

The gibberish-spewing, liquor-smelling doomsayer on the street corner has a new name: Al Gore. Attention left-leaning Bluejays, you've been duped. At some point during their recent years of impotence, a crack team of Democratic strategists retreated to a backroom to kick around possible issues. They pondered. What's as scary as 9/11 but scarier? What's just inaccessible enough to average Americans that they won't question it? What will cause people to say 'the scientific community' a lot? Let me throw in one fact before you crumple this paper up and place it in the nearest recycling bin: global warming exists. But it's not that big of a deal.

Hopkins' own lecturing superstar Professor Ginsberg recounts in his Introduction to American Politics class a scene of similar Washington opportunism. The notorious demagogue Joe McCarthy and some of his consultants are

sitting in a diner, brainstorming campaign issues. One staffer pitches anti-communism. McCarthy smiles. The rest is history, spawned from a simple and recurring formula: take a potentially explosive issue and exaggerate the hell out of it.

Enter Al Gore. It's easy to fall under Al's charm. Most of us view him through rose-colored glasses. He is the sane, intelligent foil to Bush's buffoonery. Gore is like that fun uncle who owns a motorcycle and plays in a rock band on the weekend. In one scene in his film *An Inconvenient Truth*, Gore is typing away on a fifteen-inch Macbook. *Just like us!* It still hurts to think that five hundred Floridians could have saved us from W's disastrous tenure (ironically, Florida is one of the states that Gore predicts will soon be underwater).

But let us not forget that Gore is a dyed-in-the-wool politician. He may genuinely care about the environment and the fate of our planet, but we cannot trust him when it comes to urgency. Politics and science do not mix. A sensitive scientific issue will be exploited, corrupted and stripped of many layers of truth in the hands of a politician. Bush once comically stated that the

"jury is still out" on evolution. Former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist diagnosed Terri Schiavo from what looked like a TiVo, and now Al Gore cries Armageddon.

A recent New York Times article explains that many reputable scientists are calling "Mr. Gore's central points ... exaggerated and erroneous." Gore rebuts by saying he covered "the most important and salient points" and that "the degree of scientific consensus on global warming has never been stronger."

Yes, the consensus is overwhelming that global warming exists, and is most likely caused by humans. But that misses the key question: Should we care? There is consensus that the avian flu exists. But how imminent is the threat? How imminent is the nebulous doom that is climate change? The scientific community is not so united on that question. A truly terrifying revelation in the article is that many scientists "commend [Gore's] popularizations and call his science basically sound." *Basically sound?* Science, the last bastion of truth, is compromising itself to be popular.

So what are we undergrads left to

think? A once mildly compelling issue of green earth and clean air has been co-opted by an alarmist presidential hopeful (I will wager any amount of money that Gore's name will be on the '08 ballot). Those of us who don't buy into it but wish to help the planet are wary of joining a ridiculous doomsday crusade. And what's the point if Baltimore will be under a glacier by graduation? There are more important things to focus one's energy and resources on: the war in Iraq, terrorism, stem cell research, poverty, racial equality, unemployment and education among other unexaggerated, authentic causes.

Here at Homewood, the Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT) hands out fliers and petitions the administration to make our campus more eco-friendly. Next time you encounter one of their posters or buttons, take a good look at their logo. It's nearly an exact reproduction of the iconic image of six marines raising the American Flag on Iwo Jima, the setting of some of World War II's most hellish combats. Except it's not a flag, it's a giant windmill — another prime example of the cringe-inducing self-importance of the global warming movement.

Joshua Robinson

Dragging our feet to the podium

For many seniors, the prospect of graduation is like a silent, static-filled charge in the air that raises the hair on their necks every time the thought of a cap and gown flits across their minds. For others, it is a light at the end of a dark tunnel.

As of this writing, there are 49 days left until Hopkins' roughly 1,000 seniors graduate and enter the real world. Some of my classmates, it would seem, have been ready for the real world since they were freshmen. However, this is a rare breed. It remains that the vast majority of Blue Jays falling out of the "nest" are woefully under-prepared for life on the ground. And perhaps where it hits us most is in the question: *What am I going to do with my life?*

Most seniors would agree that those who are going straight into grad school,

having suffered through a final year of board exams and cross-country interviews, at least have the easiest future: a known one. To those who are going straight to the working world, as I am, we're exceedingly lucky if we've found a job in today's tight market. Even if we have, we are on the verge of leaving the bubble for the first time.

It's also a time when the ideals we've developed as college students begin to collide with the economic realities of being in the working world. There's the old story of the liberal-minded college student proudly entering the real world, seeing the withholding on his first paycheck and immediately declaring himself conservative.

We are on the verge of leaving the bubble for the first time.

One thing that does help upperclassmen at Hopkins adjust to the real world is that most upperclassmen live off-campus. It is an invaluable experience to live, during college, as a tenant who is (often for the first time) outside the authority of any parent or resident advisor. For graduates of most four-year universities, this level of independence isn't reached until after graduation.

So I suppose we Hopkins seniors have been given a nice headstart. Maybe the situation isn't as bad as I initially thought. And yet, doubt still sets in.

An extremely common tendency among college students is one towards procrastination. I called Professor Steven

David, a prominent professor in the Political Science department who has long taught the popular Contemporary International Politics. I asked David, "If you were to assign an average 100-student class three weeks to complete a five-page paper, what percentage of those students do you estimate would have begun the paper more than two days before it was due?" David, noting that his answer was "purely speculative," guessed 50 percent.

His estimate and mine were alike. And the pervasiveness of this procrastination made me wonder whether it was affecting some bigger questions we had left to answer before we walked across the stage. At this point, that paper's due in just a few days. And I doubt more than half of us have started writing it.

— Joshua Robinson is a senior International Studies major from Potomac, Md.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



A mouse with an extra human photoreceptor gene has an expanded range of color vision: it can see reds in addition to greens. COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.JHMI.ORG](http://www.jhmi.org)

Mice with human genes see in Technicolor

By GRACE MALDARELLI
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Researchers from Hopkins and the University of California-Santa Barbara have improved the color vision of mice by adding human genes. The results shed new light on the way the eye evolved and functions.

When light hits the eye, it passes through the cornea and strikes the retina, a curved sheet of nervous tissue at the back of the eye. In the retina, incoming light is turned into a series of electrical and chemical signals that can be interpreted by the brain as vision.

The retina contains two types of light-sensing cells, rods and cones. Rods are more numerous than cones but can only detect the presence of light, not its color. Cones, on the other hand, contain one of three pigments that are sensitive to specific colors.

The first type of cone pigment is activated by short wavelengths of light, like blue and purple. Light with middle or long wavelengths, anything from red to green, activates the second and third receptor proteins.

Primates are the only mammals that have three types of

receptor proteins. The scientists working on the study were trying to determine whether the introduction of a third receptor protein into mice, giving those mice three receptor genes. The mice had different combinations of their two natural middle-wavelength 'M' proteins and the human long-wavelength 'L' protein.

In order to answer their research question, the scientists cloned a gene for a human receptor protein into mice, giving those mice three receptor genes. The mice had different combinations of their two natural middle-wavelength 'M' proteins and the human long-wavelength 'L' protein.

Scientists trained mice to interact with a set of three colored panels, one of which was a different color from the other two. When the mouse correctly selected the panel that was different, it was rewarded with soy milk. Three of the mice expressing both the L and M genes successfully completed this task.

The scientists next tested whether the heterozygous mice could tell the difference between two different colors. In this experiment, two of the panels were lit with orange lights while the test panel was lit with a green light.

Mice without human L re-

ceptors were not able to tell the difference between orange and green, but mice with both M and L proteins selected the green panel 80 percent of the time.

To assess the range of colors visible with the new photoreceptor, the scientists tested the mice to see if they could tell the difference between two orange panels and a test panel in which green and red-orange lights were combined in varying proportions.

The mice were able to identify the two-color test panel when it was more green than orange, but once a large amount of orange was added to the color mix, the test and standard panels were too close in color for the mice to be able to differentiate them.

These results indicate that much of the ability to see colors depends on the eye itself and not on the processing that goes on in higher-level neurons. This finding supports theories that three-color vision arose in primates when one of the two genes in lower mammals, such as mice, duplicated and then changed slightly. A change in a photoreceptor is enough to allow animals to see entirely new colors.

The study was published in the March 23 issue of *Science*.

The day my phone turned into a lemon

My cell phone screen grew a lemon the other day.

Earlier that day I had called a friend to meet up for lunch. The cell phone was fine. I put the phone in my pocket and went to class.

A couple of hours later, I texted another friend while sitting on the JHMI shuttle. The cell phone was still fine. I tossed the phone in my backpack and left the bus.

Two hours later, my mom called. I pulled the phone out of my bag to answer the insistent ring — and found a lemon on my screen. The cell phone was not fine.

Usually the background of my phone is a particularly funny picture of my two dogs. (The things we can do.) But my dogs' faces were obscured by a bright blob with almost the exact same color and shape as a lemon.

The lemon was surrounded by a demonic white halo — just to taunt me, I suspect.

The phone still works. I can call, text and look up numbers; I just can't see any of those things behind the halo-ringed citrus.

I tried restarting the cell phone — no luck. I tried changing the background — no luck. I cleared all of my old messages and call logs and basically anything else on the phone's tiny little memory chip — still no luck.

Technology isn't supposed to break, I mused, as I repeatedly dropped the phone from a few inches above my desk in a vain effort to whack it back into shape.

As I write this, I still can't use my phone's camera or games or any of the other time-wasters I've come to love and depend on.

We've grown accustomed to our world of automatic devices that seem to predict our every wish and satisfy our every need.

You don't need to walk up the stairs; just step on the escalator. You don't need to go to the library; just click over to Google.

It's irritating enough when

you go to the mall and find that the escalator is out of service. Can you imagine what would happen if Google went down for a day? Oh, the horror!

In the modern world, technologies go through three stages: "I don't quite know what to do with this," then "I still don't really know

function.

Two weeks ago, a small news story trickled into the mainstream media. Congress had changed the start of daylight savings time, and now computers weren't going to know what time it was. *The New York Times* predicted a "mini-Y2K."

Of course, there were no major disasters, with airplanes crashing and hospitals shutting down. But a few lines of computer code could have been the difference between normality and chaos.

That lemon is still staring me in the face. It's really a minor problem, though; I'll go to the mall this weekend and get a replacement. I'm just hoping the store has a wire to transfer numbers and photos to my new phone — I can't imagine entering all of them in by hand.

Stephen Berger
What's Next?

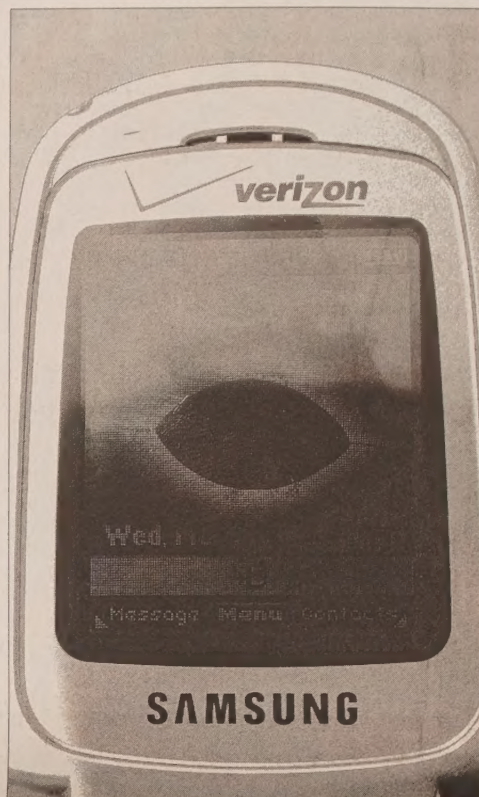
what to do with this, but gee, it's cool" and finally, "I couldn't bear to live without this."

It took decades for the airplane, the computer and even the lightbulb to go through those stages.

But look at how quickly the Facebook News Feed went from a weird idea to an unmitigated disaster before (I bet) settling into a normal part of your daily Internet use.

It's during that last stage that technology reaches its peak. Every engineer dreams that his or her device will become the next Microsoft Windows, indispensable to millions of people.

But it's also during that final stage, when a technology is so useful, when (we think) it improves our lives so much, that we become the most vulnerable to any little bug or glitch or mal-



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

A curiously lemon-looking shape obscures the offending screen.

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YOUR NEWS-LETTER



- #10 - Robin Hood "dies"
- The cunning fox takes a dive off a burning tower into a moat, where only his hat floats to the surface, shot through with an arrow. He later reappears, unharmed and hatless.
- #9 - Snow White bites it
- Snow White takes a big old bite from that infamous poisoned apple and lies dead in the dwarves' creepy glass coffin, until Prince Charming arrives and awakens her with a famous kiss.
- #8 - Gigantic Ursula attacks
- The fear all comes from that one terrifying shot of Ursula expanding to crush Eric and Ariel. It sent thousands of kids rushing to cover their heads under blankets until she is killed.
- #7 - Jessie's sad song
- Who knew *Toy Story 2* could produce tears? With Sarah McLachlan singing the story of Jessie's abandonment, it's hard not to feel guilty for all of the toys you have forgotten over the years.
- #6 - Nemo's mom is fish food
- This event happens just as you've started to get comfortable in your seat. Ten minutes into the film, we've got a mom and almost all of her children eaten by a terrifying fish.

Top ten traumatizing moments in Disney animation

- #5 - The "Baby Mine" song
- This moment is more for the older kids in the audience, who will tear up at Dumbo's mother gently cradling her baby from inside her cage, rather than the kids watching the movie, who'll be bored.
- #4 - Gaston "kills" the Beast
- Come on, you know he's going to live. You've probably seen this movie twenty times. It doesn't matter, because you know that when Belle cradles her fallen love, you'll get dust in your eye.
- #3 - Trusty crushed by a cart
- Stupid old Trusty, always talking about his grandpappy, finally gets to save the day with his faulty nose, and what does he get? A broken leg that at first seems to be much worse.
- #2 - Bambi's mom is venison
- It's the original traumatizer, the one that gets the most press: an offscreen hunter fires his rifle with a shot that both Bambi and the audience realize has taken the life of his devoted mom.
- #1 - Mufasa's death
- Bambi may bost the original parent death, but Mufasa gets trampled by wildebeest onscreen and we see Simba grieving over the body. Pass the tissues. — Marie Cushing



How to waste time online: the best sites to procrastinate on

Museum of Bad Art

<http://www.museumofbadart.com>

The real Museum of Bad Art does exist, but the website is a great way to view the collection if you cannot make it to Boston to see the spectacle in real life. Many paintings are either donated or recovered from local Salvation Army centers. Make sure to check out great art like *Sunday on the Pot With George*, an impressionist-style portrait of a man on the toilet.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MUSEUMOFBADART.COM](http://www.museumofbadart.com)
Is this MOBA portrait called *Think Again* an ode to Michael Jackson, or horses?

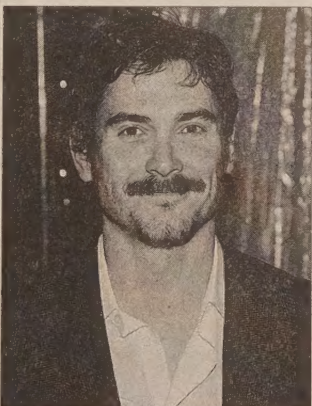
Go Fug Yourself

<http://www.gofugyourself.com>

Ever watch the red carpet shows and seethe when those entertainment reporters gush over celebrities who are wearing atrocious outfits? Get the feeling that they can get away with train wreck clothes simply because they are famous? Then check out Go Fug Yourself for some fashion

revenge. Commentators on the site rip on terrible celebrity outfits.

The reports on Britney Spears are especially fantastic, not just because of Spears' outfit choices, but because they are written from her point of view, expressing her love of Cheetos and desire to take out any girl who stands between her and her Justin. The Celebrity Terror Watch section helps



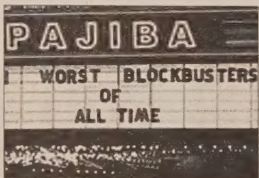
COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.GOFUGYOURSELF.COM](http://www.gofugyourself.com)
On *Go Fug Yourself*, Billy Crudup's creepy facial hair earned him a place on their Celebrity Skeeve Watch ranking.

to monitor celebrities as they move along the different levels of "skeeve," "bloat," and "tanorexia." There is even a section called Well Played for those celebrities who get their act together and dress with class after a disastrous outfit.

Pajiba

<http://www.pajiba.com>

If you like your film reviews with a little more bite than the two thumbs that Ebert and Roeper have to offer, then this is the site for you. With a slogan like "Scathing Reviews for Bitchy People," don't expect *Norbit* and *Wild Hogs* to get treated with kid gloves. Check out the real-time reviews of cinematic gems like *The Dukes of Hazard: The Beginning* and a blasphemously hilarious viewing of *The Passion of the Christ*. The Best of Pajiba section also works as a handy guide if you're looking for a great movie you may have never even heard about before.



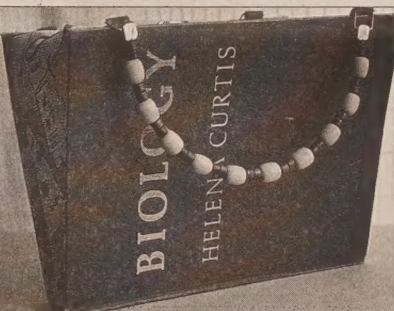
COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PAJIBA.COM](http://www.pajiba.com)
Pajiba includes a ranking of the worst blockbusters of all time.

Etsy

<http://www.etsy.com>

Bicycle seat cozys, ninja-themed jewelry, a "Chrismukkah" bib and nautical dresses for dogs: All of these can be bought at <http://www.etsy.com>. The Web site hosts items produced by amateur craft-

people from around the world. The clothing and houseware sections include many cute, funky and unusual items that you probably never knew you needed but will be clamoring to buy now that you've found them. It is easy to browse the site by categories, color or price. Browsing by state is very difficult,



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ETSY.COM](http://www.etsy.com)
A purse made from a biology textbook is one of the great finds you'll see browsing <http://www.etsy.com>

however, because of the map search function, which looks fancy but doesn't work.

If you're crafty or have a talent for knitting awesome hats, then you too can sign up to sell your wares at a small commission price. Not all of the gifts are winners — a \$38 shrine to the menopause fairy, for example — but part of the fun is in the hunt for a perfect trinket. — M.C.

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YOUR tracks

UK Invasion

Sure, the UK boasts *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones* and other illustrious acts. But can modern artists from the British Isles still hold their own? Well hold onto your fish and chips, because the answer is yes, as evidenced by these twelve acts who've made it all the way across the pond and straight into your eardrums.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| "Dy-Na-Mi-Tee" | Ms. Dynamite | "Step Into My Office, Baby" | Belle & Sebastian |
| "Like Eating Glass" | Bloc Party | "Fix Up, Look Sharp" | Dizzee Rascal |
| "Knock 'Em Out" | Lily Allen | "Over The Ocean" | Nine Black Alps |
| | | "Faster Kill Pussycat" | Oakenfold |
| | | "You Know I'm No Good" | Amy Winehouse |
| | | "Tell Her This" | Del Amitri |
| | | "Suzie" | Boy Kill Boy |
| | | "You Don't Love Me" | The Kooks |
| | | "Sway" | The Perishers |



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.WZAPPER.COM](http://www.wzapper.com)
Lily Allen is known for rapping with a strong British accent.

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
MARY KEY, WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Star-spangled kid: Key rewriting the history books

By MARY DOMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Like they say, the third time's a charm. Or a key, rather?

Either way you put it, senior lacrosse player Mary Key has charmed the *News-Letter's* "Athlete of the Week" column for the third year in a row. With over 40 *News-Letter* appearances to her name, and I think it's safe to call her a sports section veteran. As a mere freshman, I can't say I wasn't a little intimidated, and impressed, when interviewing this master of the media.

I came to realize that Key's comments concerning lacrosse are just as smooth as her skills. After eight years of interviews, her answers came as naturally as her lacrosse goals. (Maybe the other Mary should have written this article.)

Although she conducts herself with grace during both the game and the interview, don't think that either came without practice. She practiced lacrosse almost every day since she started playing. And interviews?

"If I had to guess, I'd say I've done about 30 interviews," Key said.

The practice has paid off. This weekend, Key broke three school records — Division I career goals (200), single game points, (six goals and seven assists, totalling 13), and all-time career assists (125). The spotlight didn't fade by Monday, either, as she was named Nike/*Inside Lacrosse* Player of the Week.

"It's cool. I didn't really expect

it because we lost the game," Key said. She also leads the team in goals (33), assists (30) and points (63). "I would have to say my favorite record to hold is the points per game record because it shows more consistency. It's about coming out every single game and giving your best, not just doing well in one game."

Key's leadership extends beyond the scoreboard, however. "My team looks up to me, not just to score goals. It's just part of being an upperclassman. The team has to have faith in you as an upperclassman and a captain."

Who knew that this lacrosse star was so loquacious? "When it comes to giving interviews, I'm pretty confident. You know what to do and what to avoid," she said.

Key was first named Athlete of the Week back in 2005 and covered by Zach Goodman, who is now sports editor at the *News-Letter*. Goodman was impressed with her suave statements

back then, and hasn't forgotten the interview. "Even as a sophomore, Mary was as fun and congenial as she was talented," he said. "I knew we'd be hearing from her



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Senior attack Mary Key breaks through yet another defensive formation against Oregon last Saturday.

again." Last year, the *News-Letter* handed her the award again, this time covered by Drew Lefkof. By the third time around, the Athlete of the Week title still holds a place dear, yet not as striking, in her heart. "It's cool to be recognized to be a player who had a really great week. The first time around I was super excited," she said. "And this time around it's not much of a shock, but still an honor."

The superstar says she's been covered in local and state newspapers, TV programs, sports magazines, and, of course, her college rag. This month, in fact, a Mary Key interview should air on "Behind Lacrosse" on CSTV. If you don't happen to see it, maybe flip open the latest editions of *Inside Lacrosse* and *Lacrosse Magazine* to look for her picture there. Or rather, head to the field this week to watch the Blue Jays take on the University of Pennsylvania.

For the weekend, she said, "I

don't really think we're nervous. We haven't had our huge breakout game. But when we do, it'll be the best part of the season." She paused and finished, "Hopefully that'll be this weekend."

But even with all the cameras, reporters and journalists surrounding her, Key has a remarkable humility atypical to an Athlete of the Week. According to Key, her teammates are more golden than any medals she receives. "They're my closest group of friends," she said of the Lady Jays. "We're all like sisters."

With such a close family on the field, and a passion for giving Athlete of the Week interviews, Key is finding it hard to say goodbye to it all. "This is the last time I'll play lacrosse for the rest of my life. I want to cherish every moment and take it all in. I'm really going to miss it."

In equal measure, the *News-Letter* is going to miss our favorite Athlete of the Week.

M. Lax fails to overcome impenetrable UVA defense

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
back in the game. Having taken seven shots in the second quarter, compared with only three in the first, the team had reason to be optimistic going into the second half.

Nevertheless, it was Virginia who came out strong in the opening minutes of the third quarter, as Hopkins appeared to have lost a step or two between the final whistle of the first half and the start of the second.

After two more Virginia goals on nine shots in the third, the fourth quarter began with the Cavaliers holding a relatively large 7-2 lead and Hopkins not playing up to its usual standards.

"We turned the ball over and didn't finish some shots," Byrne said.

The opening minutes of the fourth quarter, however, initiated an entirely different game. Hopkins began a relentless attack against Virginia, which was playing on the defensive for most of the quarter.

With a newfound vigor, the team used its final 15 minutes to claw back into the game and justify the hype that had surrounded the contest.

Taking more shots — 16 — than they had taken in the first three quarters combined, the Blue Jays put on the type of show that most of their home fans expected.

Less than a minute in, freshman midfielder Michael Kimmel got on the board with his eighth score of the season. Rabil scored another goal, his second, to put the

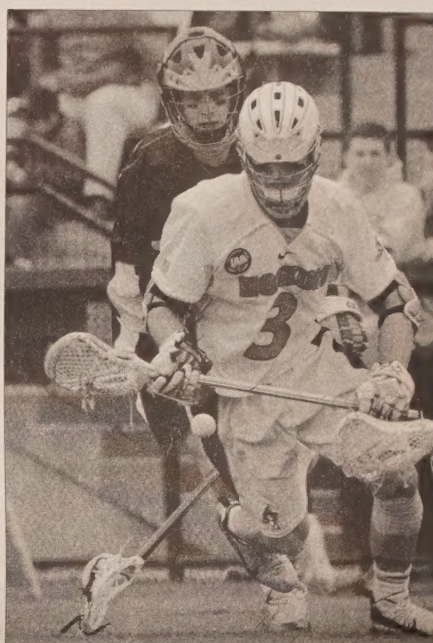
Jays within three with more than half of the quarter to go. Combined with a defensive group that only allowed two goals in the entire half, the possibility of a Hopkins comeback was increasingly likely.

"Basically, we just carried out our game plan better in the second half," sophomore defenseman Michael Evans said. "Our execution was a lot better."

With a little more than a minute to play, junior midfielder Stephen Peyser added a goal, his fourth of the year.

But by then, the effort was too little too late against a Virginia defense that prevented Hopkins from getting the sort of momentum they needed to really get themselves back into the game.

"Offensively, it took us a while to settle down," Benson said. "Once we got organized, we were able to create some offense. It was too bad we couldn't do that earlier."



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Sophomore midfielder Andrew Miller eyes the ball.

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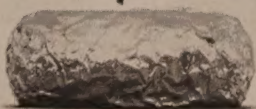
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SPORTS



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Junior shortstop Jonas Fester applies the tag for the force-out against Rutgers.

Baseball takes two from Rutgers-Newark Raiders

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
batted down their rivals, winning by a score of 12-6 and stretching their run total into double digits for the seventh time this season.

The Blue Jays wasted no time getting down to business, scoring three runs in the first inning and another five in the third, including home runs by Izzo, senior third baseman Ian Christie and junior catcher Tony Margve. Shortly after Rutgers-Newark was able to put some numbers on the scoreboard in the fourth, Hopkins came hammering back with two more runs, reinforcing their lead at 10-1.

The fans were again treated to a web gem, this time courtesy of Venezia's diving catch. Senior catcher and captain Rob Sanzillo also put up some crooked numbers, scoring five, driving in three and notching a long ball. Rutgers crossed the plate three more times in the ninth, but it was much too late by then. Hopkins took the game, 12-6.

Putting up these numbers is always wonderful, but this season it has special meaning for the Jays. This year, the team is dedicating the season to Mike Durgala — a former player and assistant

coach who died in a car accident this past summer — and striving to keep his memory alive. Each player also wears a blue armband in his honor. When he saw an athlete not giving his all, Durgala had always spouted his trademark joke: "It's O.K., we'll win a national championship next year." This year, the team is seeking in earnest to make Durgala's favorite line a reality.

"He is with a lot of us when we are playing ... We dedicated the season to him," Sanzillo said.

Yet it won't be easy. The Jays have a demanding schedule ahead, complete with some top-ten opponents. "[We're taking] baby steps. We're trying not to look too much past each game, win each one as it comes, then conferences, then regionals," Sanzillo said.

Sunday's doubleheader was not the only action that the baseball team will see this week. Games against both York College and McDaniel — the Centennial Conference opener — are in store for the Blue Jays, as well as a conference doubleheader this weekend at Swarthmore College. Keep your fingers crossed for sunny weather.

Throwers thrive at Towson Invitational

Sophomores Li and Onyima continue to excel at the shotput as senior Lewis breaks the record for the 10K over the weekend

By EILEEN LILLY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

And they're off.
The members of the track team began their highly anticipated outdoor track season at the Towson Invitational last Saturday. Similar to the start of their indoor campaign, both the men and women began their seasons with several impressive individual performances.

Although the meet did not rank teams, the Blue Jays faced several nearby Division I teams as well as a number of strong competitors from Division III. Since there was no team scoring at the meet, the Blue Jay coaching staff took full advantage of the opportunity to assess athletes on a race-by-race basis as Hopkins prepares for a successful season.

Sophomore Peter Li paced the men's team early on by placing fourth in the shot put. He threw for a distance of 13.76 meters in the final round. Li also continued to show off his strength in the discus as he threw for 38.64 meters — good for ninth place. After Li, fellow sophomore Adam Waddell tied for third in the pole vault thanks to his 4.26-meter leap.

Additionally, Waddell did well in the high jump claiming fifth by clearing the bar at 1.77 meters. This season is Waddell's first on the team, having only joined the team at the end of the winter season.

Also defying the sophomore slump was long-jumper James Shim who soared 6.12 meters into 8th place.

Aside from their success in the field, the men also fared well in the long-distance events. Senior Andrew Lewis placed fifth in the 10,000 meters. However, his high finish was not what made his run special. His time of 32:40.90 broke a Hopkins record that had stood since 1977 when Bill Caldwell ran 32:43.24 in the event.

The 4x800 relay team began their season with a first place



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Junior Jeff Neal is caught in the middle of the pack during the 800-meter run.

win. The team consisting of senior Philip Aiken, junior Jason Hortatis, junior Jeffrey Neal and freshman Noah Jampol ran the relay in 8:24.40. The 4x100 team was right behind them placing third in their event.

Junior Tristan Thomas, freshman Pierre Hage, freshman James Walker and senior Jason Dubyoski combined for a time of 44.73. The 4x400 relay team also placed third with a time of 3:29.50. The team was made up of Hage, Walker, freshman Jonathan Walker and Dubyoski. By the conclusion of the day, the Jays were generally pleased with their body of work.

"I feel we have a great bunch of guys who can compete at a high level and match up against the best in the centennial conference," Waddell said.

The women's track team also had their share of successes. Sophomore Amarachi Onyima got the women's squad going by placing second in the shotput. She threw for 11.36 meters beating all of her competition

except for a Division-I standout Amanda Marshall from Delaware. Freshman Krystina Laucik finished behind Onyima scoring sixth and throwing for 10.95 meters.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Freshman Laura Paulsen leads the pack early during Saturday's Towson Invitational.



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SPORTS

You GOTTA SEE This!
Sometimes prayers aren't answered. Other times, when you heave a half-court shot in a meaningless game, God hears you and answers it. Check out this video of Detroit Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace swishing a 60-foot shot — for the win — against the Denver Nuggets last Tuesday: On *YouTube.com*, search "Wallace 3-4 full court shot".

SPORTS CALENDAR	
FRIDAY	
Baseball vs. McDaniel,	3:30 p.m.
SATURDAY	
M. Tennis vs. Ferrum,	10:00 a.m.

Ferguson places 13th at NAAs

By **DEMIAN KENDALL**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

David Ferguson had a tough road ahead of him as he made the trip up to Drew University in Madison, N.J., for the nationally televised NCAA National Fencing Championships this past weekend. Ferguson was Hopkins' only qualifier for the tournament and was pitted against some of the most elite fencers in the country.

Ferguson was the only Division III fencer in the 24-man foil bracket, his name written in among the powerhouses of the fencing circuit, including Notre Dame, Princeton and Ohio State. The stage was set for a David-and-Goliath showdown, and Ferguson was prepared.

"The tournament was pretty impressive," Ferguson said. "I went in there expecting a lot of great matches and I got them."

Ferguson won eleven of his bouts in the tournament, finishing thirteenth in the foil division. His outstanding finish landed him the honor of top Division III fencer in the entire tournament, and was the best performance of any fencer under head coach Austin Young. Each bout that Ferguson won boosted Hopkins' ranking in the NCAA for the upcoming year; thanks to Ferguson alone, the Blue Jays finished 23rd in the team standings, securing a dominant ranking in Division III for the season ahead.

The first day of the tournament started slow for Ferguson.

"I didn't do as well on the first day," Ferguson said. "I lost some matches I probably shouldn't have, but then the next day I was generally better. I definitely got a little lucky and beat some of the Division III schools I didn't expect to beat."

Going into the second day of a tournament having lost a few bouts can be intimidating. However, Ferguson rallied forward in a feat of pure skill showing that he was unfazed. Even as a Division III fencer, he was more than qualified to cross blades with the intense competition that packed the gymnasium.

Some of the most elite fencers in the tournament fell under Ferguson's foil as the sophomore tallied win after win. Ferguson scored victories against fencers from University of California-San Diego, Stanford, the Air Force Academy, Duke, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Brandeis, Harvard and St. John's. He was a new fencer in the second day, and no one saw him coming.

"The match against Kai Itameri-Kinter from Harvard really stuck out," Ferguson said.

"I definitely had much more success this year," Ferguson said. "It was a very exciting season. As for next year, I'd like to be able to go to NAAs with at least one of my teammates."

INSIDE

Athlete of the Week: Key opens doors

Three-time AOTW senior midfielder Mary Key is no stranger to the sports pages. So when she scored 13 points against Oregon last Saturday, we couldn't resist. **Page A10.**

Track heads outdoors for Towson Invitational

If the first meet of the outdoor season at Towson is any indication of things to come for the Hopkins track team, expect both the men and women to replicate last year's smashing success. **Page A11.**



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Midfielder Lauren Schwarzmann '08 snatches a loose ball as attack Mary Key '07 looks on during a change of possession in last Saturday's lacrosse game against Oregon.

Women's lacrosse sends Ducks quackin'

By **ALEXANDER IP**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

There's no place like home. Although Dorothy from the *Wizard of Oz* first found this statement to be true, the members of the women's lacrosse team are also clicking their heels together nowadays, having remained undefeated at Homewood Field this season.

Hopkins capped off the first half of their 2007 campaign by stifling the red-hot Oregon Ducks' four-game win streak, sending

their visitors packing with a 20-4 spanking on Saturday.

"We love to play at home, but I think the team could have played them anywhere and [we] would have fought hard," head coach Janine Tucker said. "This was a critical game to get us back on track as we prepare for May."

The team had been in a slump as of late, falling hard to the tough top-ranked Maryland Terrapins, 22-15, three days prior to the victory. Despite putting up comparable offensive numbers against the Terps, the Blue Jays were not able to make up for a seven-point deficit incurred from the first half of the game. Hopkins has yet to beat Maryland in any of their Division I meetings.

But to the Jays' credit, the games have been kept close in recent years — Wednesday's match included. The girls shot above .400, while the defense found a way to put the brakes on an unstoppable Terrapin offense by limiting them to eight goals in the second half of the match.

The team learned a great deal from the mistakes made in their previous three losses this season, and as a result, they took the Ducks to school in Saturday's match. Scoring early and often against Oregon, Hopkins nabbed the lead only 20 seconds into the first half, courtesy of freshman attacker Samantha Schrum.

Eight minutes into the match, the Lady Jays really began to fire on all cylinders, scoring 12 points before the half with contributions from seven different players. Most important, the defense was rock-solid, which allowed Hopkins to control the scoreboard for the final 22 minutes of the first period and three minutes on into the second half.

"I was pleased to see the team execute the things we have been stressing. Our defense looked back to form and our offense was very sharp," Tucker said. "We were due to put things together."

With the score at 14-1, the game was looking to be a blowout victory midway through, but the Lady Jays were not willing to rest on their laurels.

"Every time we come out of a halftime, we look at the game as 0-0," senior attacker Sarah Walsh said. "We needed to come out in the second half with the same attitude as the start of the game, which I thought we did a nice job of."

Walsh came out firing 20 seconds into the second period to finish off Hopkins' chain of 13 continuous goals.

The team tacked on five more before the game was over, with two points coming from freshman attacker Danielle Ensley and sophomore attacker Jess Buicko, who each scored their first career goals in the last 10 minutes of the game.

Senior attacker Mary Key also had a milestone moment of her own, notching her 200th career goal after a record-shattering six-goal effort against the Ducks. Factoring in her seven assists in the game, Key is now tied in seventh place with 325 points on the list of all-time NCAA Career Points Leaders.

Not only has Key made a significant impact on college lacrosse with her individual numbers, but she has also been an invaluable asset to the Blue Jays since she joined the team her freshman year. The Lady Jays are an unprecedented 32-7 in games in which Key scores three or more goals.

With the team returning to its dominant ways, the team is looking to ride out its current wave of jubilation as its hard work in practice is paying off in big ways.

"We have stressed this year that our early losses could be a blessing if we continue to improve and hit our stride in April and May," Tucker said. "We have been working towards putting a complete game together — now we have to do that for the rest of our games this season."

The Jays will try to improve on their 5-3 record when they face the University of Pennsylvania on Wednesday.

Men's lacrosse dominated by Cavaliers

By **MIKE GLENWICK**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Two of men's lacrosse's best teams squared off on Homewood Field this past Saturday, with a Hopkins squad, ranked No. 3, playing host to a No. 2-ranked Virginia team, in a game with high expectations on all sides. Those expectations were met as lacrosse fans witnessed a defensive showdown whose outcome was not determined until the game's final minutes. Virginia went home with a 7-5 win.

This year Hopkins has struggled to get off to a good start in the first quarter, particularly against good competition. Things were no different against what might prove to be their toughest opponent of the year.

Virginia, in the face of a raucous crowd of 4,784, got its offense going quickly in that first quarter, firing 13 shots at senior goalie

Jesse Schwartzman. Eight of those shots were on goal, and the Cavaliers were able to get four past Schwartzman and the defense for an early 4-1 lead. The fact that so much of the first-quarter action occurred in the Blue Jays' end not only put a great deal of pressure on the defense but also prevented the team's offense from getting going against an experienced Virginia defense.

"The athleticism and the speed at which they played gave us some problems," assistant coach Bobby Benson said. "But I thought we had a couple of great opportunities early on that we failed to capitalize on."

Senior attacker Jake Byrne added: "Virginia plays at a very high pace, and any time you play a team like that, one that pressures you, you have to adjust how you play. If you add on the magnitude of the game and the crowd, everything can get a little hectic."

Turnovers were also a



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Junior defenseman Matt Bocklet's clear is blocked by a Cavalier midfielder during last Saturday's two-goal defeat.

problem early on. The Blue Jays gave up the ball eight times in the first half, opening the door for even more Virginia opportunities. Combine that with the fact that Hopkins won only three of its nine face-offs in the first half, and Virginia's 5-2 first-half lead was not terribly surprising.

Hopkins' two first-half goals came late in the first quarter by Byrne and with 6 minutes to go in the second quarter by junior midfielder Paul Rabil. The goals were Byrne's ninth and Rabil's eighth of the season.

Even with their relatively lackluster play in the first half, Hopkins went into its locker room at halftime down only three goals, and the game was anything but decided, particularly on the team's home turf.

With 17 goals a week before on the road against Syracuse, the Blue Jays hoped to call on their offensive firepower and the continued strong play of their defense to get themselves



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Senior midfielder Drew Dabrowski jukes a Virginia defender.

Baseball falls to York, 3-2

By **PASHA HADIDI**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

What happens when a baseball game gets cancelled?

Trick question: It doesn't — it gets postponed. Then you get a doubleheader, which could mean double the joy or double the frustration. The Jays got the former.

The baseball team weathered a doubleheader this weekend and came out on top, sweeping both games against the Scarlet Raiders from Rutgers-Newark by scores of 7-3 and 12-6. Both games were rescheduled from earlier in the season.

The doubleheader, taking place on the Blue Jays home turf, bolstered the baseball team's season to an impressive 10-2. The win was the Jays' sixth in a row.

Unfortunately, that streak took a tumble in a close match-up against York College. An unearned run made the difference against the perennially tough Spartans as they took the contest 3-2. Sophomore shortstop Jonas Fester, last week's *News-Letter* Athlete of the Week, continued his hot play with a leadoff homer, but two York runs in the fourth inning cost Hopkins the lead.

Despite knotting the game up on an RBI groundout by senior left fielder Nick Venezia in the fifth inning, the Jays couldn't muster up the offense to overcome the pestering Spartans.

York's Brian Bednarczyk reached on an error in the top of the seventh inning and eventually came around to score the winning run, setting the score where it remained at 3-2. Despite sophomore right fielder Chez Angeloni's (0-2) superb four-hit, no-walk complete game, he took the loss. The Jays are now 1-2 in one-run games.

Against Rutgers, the Blue Jays took an early lead with a run in the first inning. In fact, it wasn't even until the fifth inning that Rutgers-Newark managed to bring in a run of its own. That single run, however, was not enough to keep the Scarlet Raiders above the water. Starting in the bottom of the fifth inning Hopkins came back with an eager offense, halting the Raiders' advances. Venezia and senior catcher Rob Sanzillo, along with junior first baseman Matt Benchener, all notched RBIs in the effort. Defensively, senior right fielder Brett Izzo also awed onlookers with a diving catch followed by a quick throw to second base.

Although Rutgers-Newark narrowed the gap between scores in the top of the sixth inning, the Blue Jays were able to successfully finish game one with a solid four-run lead (7-3). Also contributing to the victory was junior pitcher Ryan Kuhlman's performance, in which he struck out five.

Game two provided more of the same punishment of Scarlet Raider pitching. Hopkins again

CONTINUED ON PAGE A11



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Junior first baseman Matt Benchener watches his homerun fly over the fence.

THE B SECTION

Focus • Features • Arts & Entertainment • Calendar • Cartoons

MARCH 29, 2007

Hopkins Theater

Dark days in smalltown America



A mosaic of small-town personalities, a devastating murder and the politics of religion throw Dublin, Missouri into social turmoil in Lanford Wilson's **Book of Days**, presented this past weekend by the Johns Hopkins University Theater, ARTS B6.



PHOTOS BY LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Comedy on ice: an interview with Jon Heder from *Blades of Glory*

By ASHLEY WIETSMA
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Figure skating may seem to be just sequins, spandex and sit spins, but *Blades of Glory* will have you thinking differently. Jon Heder, better known as Napoleon Dynamite, stars with Will Ferrell in their latest blockbuster comedy. The loopy plot goes something like this: When two hot-headed rivals meet up at the World Figure Skating Championships, the competition gets a little too physical. A messy brawl gets the two banned from the beautiful world of figure skating, until, luckily enough, they find a loophole that allows them to compete in pairs skating. There's only one condition: they must be each other's partners.

Heder may appear like your typical quiet nerd, but this young comedic actor has a surprising background. One of six children, he grew up in Colorado and Oregon. He is a devoted Mormon and attended Brigham Young University in Utah, where he met the director of his first film, *Napoleon Dynamite*, which shot him to stardom. Heder now lives in Los Angeles with his wife of five years and is doing the promotion for *Blades of Glory*, which premieres this Friday, March 30.

This past Monday, Heder sat in on a conference call involving several college publications, including the *News-Letter*.

Villanova: I was wondering what it was like to work with Will

Ferrell?

Jon Heder: It's not all that cracked up as it seems to be. No, I'm just kidding. It's great. You know, there's the pros and cons. Pros: he's easy to work with. He's wonderful; he's very nice, very funny. Cons: he's too funny and he'll make you look bad.

Operator: The next question is from John Hopkins [sic].

JH: Baltimore? John Hopkins — isn't that in D.C.?

News-Letter: No, it's in Baltimore.

JH: Okay, sorry. My bad.

N-L: I'm wondering, what was the challenge of skating like? I'm sure that was a unique experience.

JH: The challenge of ice skating was — it was a challenge but I loved it. I really did. I was extremely excited to, you know, kind of learn a new skill. Hopefully, you know, get good at it. But when they train you, you know that you're going to come home hopefully at the end of the day with some kind of new skill and for me that's awesome because I like to rack up the



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES
Jon Heder of *Napoleon Dynamite* fame stars in *Blades*.

NIGHT OUT Focus



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Look sharp and trendy for a night on the town

By **AUDREY MURRAY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Hopkins routine can certainly take a toll on your wardrobe.

Studying all night, 9 a.m. Orgo lab and extracurricular activities can leave little time to worry about what you're wearing. And if you're spending all day in the library, who cares how you look anyway?

The ubiquitous Juicy sweatpants, flip-flops, and Greek sweatshirts are all excusable before 9 p.m. But when you make the transition from your daytime pre-med identity to your nighttime, party-loving alter-ego, there are a few fashion don'ts that should never be ignored.

The first is Uggs boots. Yes, they're really comfortable, but you've probably been wearing them since eighth grade.

When they first came out, they were cool because they were so bizarre and different. But now that the novelty has worn off, nothing kills a cute outfit faster than a pair of boots that look like two shapeless blobs.

They're too casual to be trendy, and now that the warm weather is approaching, you can't even use the "but-my-feet-were-cold!" excuse.

Moving up, let's address the issue of "leggings as pants." Comfortable? Maybe. Appropriate outside of athletic activities? Definitely not.

Let's call them what they really are: spandex. Would you show up to a party in a pair of biking shorts? Again, they're too casual to be cute.

In addition to the sloppiness factor, leggings also are perhaps the most unflattering bottom ever invented. If you really want the entire bar to see every fleck of cellulite, by all means, wear the leggings and bare it all. But un-



COURTESY OF SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN

When you're going out with a bunch of friends be sure to dress to impress. And remember, Uggs boots are a big no no.

less you want to go home alone at the end of the night, cover up the trouble spots and leave the leggings at home.

Let's not forget about what's on top. At a frat party, less is more, and if you can get away with wearing next-to-nothing without looking like you're for sale, go for it (theme parties are particularly useful for this purpose).

But there are three huge no-nos when it comes to picking out a shirt. The first is the semi-long tank top worn as a dress. It looks great at the beginning of the night, but by 2 a.m. everyone can see everything that's underneath. Put on some form of pants (this would be an appropriate use for leggings) so that going up stairs doesn't become a hazardous situation.

The second shirt offense has almost died out, but it still pops up from time to time, and always

makes the offender look completely ridiculous. The turned-up collar used to be a way for pretentious prep school kids to pick each other out in a crowd, but now that the masses have picked up on it, it's become totally gauche.

Prep school kids have put their collars down, and the kids who leave them up are clearly posing. People in some cultures believe that the neck is the most sensual part of the body. Keep your collar down to show yours off.

The final "trend" that has to go is the silkscreen T-shirt that says things such as "Lick Me, I'm Irish." Besides the fact that the slogans are rarely clever and always trashy, nothing screams, "I'm a sexually inexperienced high-schooler" like a T-shirt that proclaims the complete opposite. You should probably put away the "College" T-shirts, too, be-

cause those weren't ever funny.

Another important reminder: don't wear anything that you don't want to walk home in at 10 a.m. the next morning. Yeah, that short skirt and tiny tank top might look great at SAE — but you might feel a little out of place running into families with young children out for a stroll in Charles Village the next day.

Finally, let's run through a few things that should be obvious. No sweatpants or sweatshirts. Nothing announcing where you went to high school or what sports team you played on. No sunglasses at night.

Getting dressed isn't hard. And in the age of Facebook photos, an ill-chosen outfit can easily be immortalized. Stop, think and look in the mirror. If you'd wear it to the library, it doesn't belong at a bar.

Five sizzling restaurants to win over your hot date

By **STEPHANIE YU**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

When it comes to restaurants for couples, Charles Village and the surrounding Baltimore area seem to fall a little short.

Varieties range from Subway to Chipotle and from chicken korma from Tamber's to a krabby pattie from Rocky Run. Let's face it: none of these places really get the ambiance right.

There are many perks to half-priced burger night, but romance isn't one of them.

If you really want to wow your date, take them to someplace that will make them feel special. Check out these places — they are closer than you think and ideal settings for a romantic night for two.

Akbar

Tamber's has been a staple for Hopkins students for its convenient location. However, the rumors of the quality of Akbar's cuisine have spread via word of mouth.

One menu item to try is "A Special Akbar Dinner" which consists of a mix of tandoori chicken, chicken tikka, dal, onion kulcha and more. This dish would give any curious gourmand a great sampling of Indian cuisine.

Amicci's

This little restaurant is located in the heart of Baltimore's Little Italy by the Inner Harbor. It goes under the title of a "very" casual eatery, so it's a perfect place to feel comfortable on a first date. The prices are also in a good range. The stand-out dish is Shrimp Fra Diavolo which is a decadent spicy dish made of jumbo shrimp, hot marinara and cream sauce. Make

sure you have someone to share it with, because it is too rich even for the most enthusiastic Italian cuisine aficionado.

Café Zen

Located just around the corner from the Senator, Café Zen is a prime spot for someone to enjoy dinner and a movie. This is a quaint Chinese restaurant with great prices.

Petit Louis

The French are proud of many things: their language, their art and most especially their food. Finding great French cuisine is easier than you might think.

Petit Louis is a small bistro located on 4800 Roland Ave.

Though the dinner menu tends to be on the expensive side, their brunch is affordable and offers great French breakfast foods such as crêpes with roasted chicken and mushrooms topped with cognac cream.

Plus it's a good excuse to wear that woolly beret that's been collecting dust in your closet.

Gertrude's

If you're looking for an intimate restaurant that is close by, go to Gertrude's at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Normally prices run on the higher end, but every Tuesday, the restaurant offers a special "Tuesdays with Gertie" menu with a wide variety of \$10 and \$12 gourmet meals.

These meals run more on the comfort-cooking side of things with everything from "I Can't Believe it's Not Crab" cakes to turkey meatloaf with mashed potatoes and veggies.

The tables are situated under a glass roof that opens up the restaurant to the Baltimore sky.

THREE NIGHT SPOTS

THE DEN



JOHN BERGGREN/FILE PHOTO

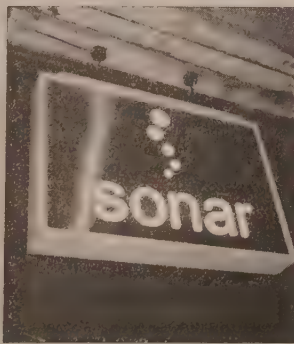
The Den, on 34th and St. Paul, is conveniently located for Hopkins students.

The trendy bar is right up the stairs from Tamber's, and offers a cool and quirky atmosphere with couches and king-size beds as furniture.

The Den also has a bit of Hopkins to it. It was founded by two graduates: Trey Thompson and Dave Weishaus, members of the classes of 2002 and 2003, respectively.

So if you want a trendier alternative to CVP or PJ's, then check out the Den, where you can sip while reclining on a plush king-size bed.

SONAR



COURTESY OF ALEX BEGLEY

Sonar is one of the few accessible concert venues in Baltimore, at only an \$8 to \$10 taxi ride away. It doesn't attract some of the big-name artists who head to D.C. concert halls and arenas, but it has a more well-known roster than the Ottobar.

Apart from playing host to some of the most up-and-coming indie, rock and hip hop groups, when it comes down to the bottom line, Sonar is a great place to dance. This illustrious venue attracts DJs from across the country. Big names like Diplo and LTJ Bukem have made multiple showings during Taxlo, Sonar's indie dance night.

BREWER'S ART



MARK MEHLINGER/FILE PHOTO

Brewer's Art is Mt. Vernon's upper crust restaurant/bar with a hip underbelly.

The first floor of Brewer's Art is a classy bar for a more high-brow crowd alongside an even nicer dining room with Baltimore's most mouth-watering steaks on the menu.

The bar however, is a totally different scene. Take away the crisp tablecloths and the \$22 steaks and you've got a gutted out, dimly-lit wine cellar that blasts loud music and serves up the tastiest burgers and fries in the town. The bar is a library of disgustingly good beers.

Helpful hints for getting around Baltimore

By **JAMES FREEDMAN**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

After planning for a night out — getting all dressed up, picking a location and deciding who to go with — the only thing standing in your way is how to get there.

Thankfully, even if you don't have a car or a friend to bum a ride from, there are several affordable or even free modes of transportation available to a Hopkins student.

Collegetown Shuttles

In addition to Hopkins, six local schools are part of the Collegetown Shuttle network: Goucher, Towson, Notre Dame, Loyola, the Maryland Institute College of Art and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

Students of any of the participating institutions can get aboard the shuttle at any of its numerous stops just by presenting their student IDs.

The Collegetown Shuttle can get you to many places, including any of the participating schools, the Inner Harbor, Penn Station and Towson Town Center.

Unfortunately the shuttle is not always on time, which can be a problem if you have a timely event to get to, such as a concert or a dinner reservation.

Security Escort Vans

More timely and reliable, the

Security Escort Vans operate on a fixed schedule that includes stops such as nearby supermarkets, undergraduate residents and apartment buildings.

By calling (410) 516-8700 — a number you don't have to worry about forgetting, as it's written in the top corner of everyone's J-card — you can even have it come to you and take you where you need to go.

However, you are limited by hour and location. The vans will only operate within a one-mile radius, and only between the hours of 5 p.m. and 3 a.m., Monday through Sunday.

JHMI Shuttle

Also impeccably reliable, the JHMI shuttle is meant mainly to get people to and from the Hospital and Medical School, but it also stops at places like Penn Station and Mt. Vernon.

Pick up a copy of the Homewood-JHMI Shuttle online at http://www.parking.jhu.edu/shuttles_jhmi-home-wood.html.

wood.html.

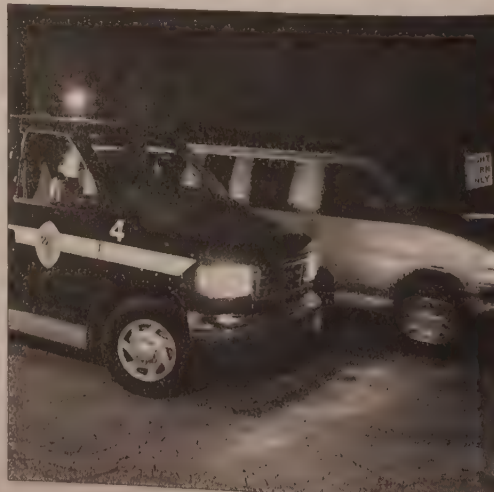
Taxis

If all else fails, you can always wave down a cab — an easy task in a city like this one — and get whisked away to your definition.

That is, if you don't mind putting your life in the hands of a complete stranger.

And if you're taking a taxi, definitely find a couple of friends to share the ride with, so you don't get stuck with a \$50 fare all on your own.

So, you know how to get around Baltimore. Now you simply have find a destination that's both safe and fun. Good luck.



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Escort Vans are a good way to get around nearby areas.

FEATURES

Girls get building with Ready, Set Design

The new XXX: of, by, and for the people

By **HEATHER BARBAKOFF**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

It's no secret that there tend to be fewer women than men working in the fields of science and engineering — it's been reported in news articles, debated in forums and even part of an ad campaign designed to encourage girls to develop an interest in science. As students at Hopkins, it may sometimes seem hard to believe that there are young girls whose interest in science is neither promoted nor encouraged.

Enter the program Ready Set Design, an event dedicated to the promotion and encouragement of girls developing their skills in science and engineering. Run through Hopkins' chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Ready Set Design was created as a way for middle-school-aged girls to gain some experience with what an engineer does.

Established three years ago by two female engineering students, the program slowly gained support from the Whiting School of Engineering. Originally the program focused on the completion of a variety of different projects, with a range of focus within engineering, but it has gradually evolved so as to focus on one specific facet of the discipline. The most recent Ready Set Design event was this past Saturday, March 24 in the Glass Pavilion with the subject matter focusing on "Engineering help for injuries and disabilities."



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK
The middle-school girls participating in Ready Set Design are responsible for both the of design and the building of their projects.

On Saturday, April 7, Ready Set Design will hold its last event of the academic year, with concentration in "Engineering and climate change."

Overseen by Lester Su, an assistant professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Sarah Webster, a graduate student in that department, there is a student committee responsible for the planning of the bi-semesterly event, whose responsibilities range from organizing the types of projects the girls will create to advertising in middle

schools within the Baltimore area. The bulk of volunteers who work with the girls are Hopkins students from various service groups on campus, including the Society of Women Engineers, the co-ed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega and the engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi; however, individual volunteers are welcome.

"Most of the girls have an interest, sometimes they are signed up by their parents," said sophomore physics major Lia Klofas, who is the event's student orga-

nizer. Klofas initially discovered the program through a friend who was volunteering. After the founding members graduated, she took on the role of organizing the minutiae. "They don't really know what engineering's about, and then they come and have fun."

Coming and having fun is the number one priority in mind for Ready Set Design's coordinators. There is an "emphasis on brainstorming, and that no idea is stupid and that the girls should come up with as many ideas as they can," Klofas said. "We don't focus on [who is] the best ... it's not a competitive aspect. Part of Ready Set Design's goals is to make engineering fun and easy for the girls ... We just want them to come out and have fun."

The day is divided into two different sessions and structured like a mini-workshop. The girls are welcomed to the program and introduced to the basics of what it means to be an engineer and how widespread engineering is in daily life. "It's fun to show girls what it's like to be an engineer and help them with their

Her name was Phoebe. Looking back on that moment, in some respects, I was a little short. 5 feet 2 inches, to be precise. This inconvenience was remedied with two of my eighth-grade textbooks, stacked neatly under my desk chair. But I wasn't ashamed, because she was a mere six inches high. And every inch of her was totally smokin' hot.

Was she real? Did it matter? She was, I suppose, nothing more than a fortunate gathering of flickering computer pixels and sound waves. On the other hand (the left), she was my every desire.

You may not have watched porn when you were a kid. If you didn't, you were missing out, not necessarily on sex (maybe while I was waiting for downloads to complete, you were getting boned), but in any event you were missing out developing some truly useful secret agent skills.

Watching porn when you're a kid is a lesson in stealth. You start thinking about sight lines. Can my parents see the computer screen if they walk in? Escape routes are critical. How quickly can I minimize the movie player? Finding just the right volume is essential. I can't watch this on mute; the moaning is half the fun. Maybe I'll turn it down real low. But can I reach for the mute button in time? It's all about being one step ahead of the enemy. If I wear headphones, will I hear my mom coming up the stairs? It's a clandestine operation worthy of Jack Bauer's talents.

Looking at the kind of porn available on secret university porn-sharing networks, I'm a little disappointed. Things haven't changed much since I was a kid. Phoebe is still there, as is the same

cast of characters — if not exactly the same people, the same tricks, the same sex positions.

Is the mainstream pornographic landscape — reflected in what's being traded now over the networks — so banal, so unchanging? Pornographers frequently think of their work as art. Other art forms change rapidly. Tastes shift, they take on complexities and simplicities, warp, become ironic reflections of themselves, rise and die.

People ask little of porn, except that it reflects back at us what we already find sexy. We find the unfamiliar unappealing. Perhaps the narrowness of mainstream pornography is the problem.

If I may speak freely ... Porn viewers of the world: you are subject to a tyranny of monolithic tastes!

Liberation is possible. I speak of democracy — a democracy for porn.

As you are by now no doubt sick of hearing, we are witnessing the rise of Web sites for the free, person-to-person exchange of media. You can share videos on YouTube, Google Video and Hopkins' own J-Stream. You can share photos on Facebook and Flickr. The most ground-breaking aspect of these Web sites is that the exchange is relatively unrestricted. There are no arbiters of taste deciding what qualifies for YouTube. And this is turning the production and consumption of art into something more democratic. Nothing stands between the artists and the audience.

All hail the arrival of the social porn site! The most popular is modeled after YouTube and is naturally dubbed PornTube.

If you're of age, you can watch

The weight debate heats up on runways

Wallis Simpson, the former Duchess of Windsor, once said, "You can never be too rich or too thin." And while this adage is familiar to most, if only in that tongue-in-cheek type of way, it's become the fashion world's sworn creed.

To no surprise, thin has always been "in" for this industry. Look back to the 1960s, when both the American and European fashion industries began their rapid ascensions. The "it" model and buzzed-about female of this period was none other than the aptly named "Twiggy," described by one reporter as "having the body of a starvation victim, and the face of an angel." It was she who heralded fashion's movement toward the nebulous androgyny that characterizes the majority of today's cat walkers.

Still, Twiggy's figure was most atypical, deemed beautiful by high fashion alone, not the greater public.

Then the '90s arrived, and with the decade came the phenomenon of Kate Moss — a waif-like model with enough fashion and general audience appeal to spread "heroin chic" thinness across the globe.

From this point forward we began seeing models transform from thin, to skinny, to underweight to, most recently, even emaciated.

With each successive issue of *Vogue*, we were confronted with models who were thinner than those of the previous issue. And with each season's Fashion Week, reporters from New York to Milan buzzed about how bony the models had become.

This trend is so prevalent that, in 2007, it is *de rigueur* for fashion models to be skeletal. Furthermore, for the model to be anything

but underweight is an anomaly.

And by no means is this assertion revolutionary or even shocking. Over the past year the issue of stick-thin models has pervaded all media conduits, trickling down to even the least fashion-conscious individuals. However, the extent to which the fashion industry has most recently been confronted and censured for its

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4



Carter Cramer
Hop Couture



COURTESY OF HTTP://FMD.ALTERVISTA.ORG
The bone-thinness of models has generated a firestorm of controversy for designers.

A totally Wiki-ed way to get the scoop on campus

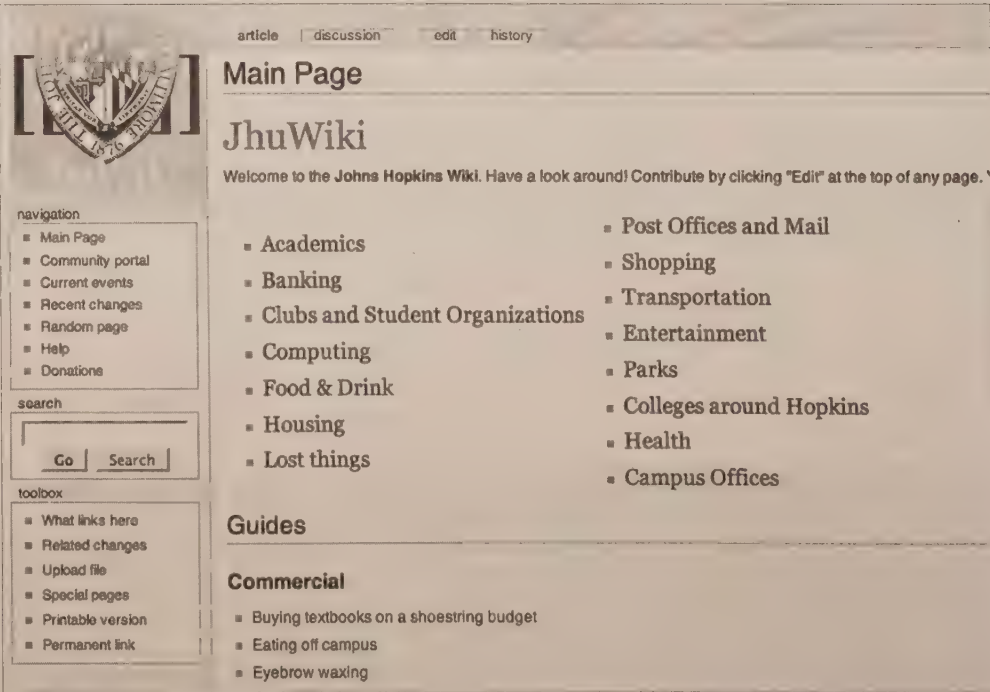
By **ALEX MUNDEN**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Almost every student at Hopkins is familiar with the vastly popular Internet tool known as *Wikipedia*. Its wide database of knowledge, created and edited by users, is an invaluable tool as a quick reference guide and starting place for more formal research. Unfortunately, *Wikipedia* can't help me decide on the best place around Hopkins to get my hair cut, or how to get textbooks cheaply instead of buying them through the college bookstore. However, some students at Hopkins have been working on changing this for some time now.

Meet Asheesh Laroia, a computer science master's student who also graduated from Hopkins in 2006 with a degree in cognitive science. Before coming to Hopkins, he had been interested in social software such as *Wikipedia*. *Wikipedia* is perhaps the most well-known example of social software. In general, social software allows greater communication through computers and other digital means. At its most broadly defined level, social software can include things such as instant messaging, chat rooms and multiplayer online games.

During his freshman year, he and the other members of his hall, Lazear in AMR II, were disappointed with the lack of decent hosting sites to share photos. Asheesh created a pseudo-Wiki for his hall, though its main purpose was for everyone to share photos. This early experience was one of the inspirations for a wiki for the Hopkins community, dubbed *JhuWiki*.

Laroia began to think about all of the common information that students needed. The school provided plenty of information



COURTESY OF HTTP://WIKI.JHU.EDU
The JhuWiki Web site promises to become a valuable resource for students who are looking for information about Hopkins.

about academics, but there was a large gap when it came to educating the campus, especially incoming students, about what was needed to get by on a college campus. This information included what restaurants in the local area were great deals, when postal hours were available and where to find ATM machines. More important at this point, the university did not offer housing to upperclassmen. However, due to the busy schedule inherent in attending Hopkins, students were unable to devote enough research to finding new housing until they were pressed for time. *Wikipedia* was supposed to consolidate information for those students searching for an apartment for the first time. La-

roia was a member of the now defunct Student Technology Advisory Committee. He proposed the idea of a university wiki to both this group and the Resident Advisory Board. Neither group expressed much interest.

Undaunted, Laroia and another Hopkins student, Christopher Chan, began building the backbone of the wiki. It was originally hosted by the IT department. However, Asheesh was doing research on a security flaw in the now-obsolete Fester program sponsored by the IT department. As Laroia prepared to present the data, the IT department contacted him about the security research, and was very angry that someone was examining the issue. In fact, their initial response

was, according to Laroia, "What the hell are you doing?" After initial draconian threats such as banning his JHED account, the department instead banned all of Laroia's web-hosting accounts on IT, and he was unable to ever register again. Even today Laroia does not have his old access. Perhaps most interesting about this is that the IT department knew of the security flaw and had done nothing about it. However, the Hopkins chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery agreed to host the JhuWiki after hearing about Laroia's problem. Laroia was able to obtain an old junk computer in which it was housed. Later, David Haldane, currently a senior at Hopkins,

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FEATURES

A more perfect union: Alternative spring-breakers reach out to others

pornos, democratized

By HEATHER BARBAKOFF
and MAX McKENNA
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
tree erotic videos and photos created by other visitors — the seductions and pleasures of average Janes and Joes. And if you're so inclined, you can upload your own work.

Sites like PornTube — XTube, vivatu and LubeYourTube are in the same genre — they give attention to those more obscure kinds of porn that might be harder to come by (pardon the pun). The original problem wasn't that minority-kink porn was non-existent, or even out of the reach of Google, but the much more trenchant problem of being ousted out of the marketing race. PornTube, by contrast, is purely meritocratic — it gives porn of all kinds the same chance to succeed.

PornTube also smudges the boundary between the pornography and the viewer. The people who bring you this porno are not, as you used to assume, part of some vast triple-X empire, a multimillion-dollar screw factory, masterminded by a cigar-chewing pilgarlic who paces through his alabaster-'n-brick mansion in Beverly Hills, talking loudly at his associates through his fat moustache, laughing with porn stars, drunk on his own pomp.

The new pornographer is the same kind of normal human being as the viewer — people from

your college, those girls from your high school, that dude and his kinky boyfriend down the road and millions of real Hot, Horny and Lonely Housewives.

Best of all: you can finally have an audience for all of those self-produced pornos you have kicking around in the attic.

And the porn you'll find (if you avoid the commercial videos) is real, not the simulacra you might be used to. Real humans, real sex, real sweat, blood and tears. The moaning is real. The screaming is real. The tits are real, sometimes.

So, ahem, it would seem I've worked myself into a difficult corner here. Am I then going to advocate that eighth-graders should also become pornographers? No. There is the obvious moral issue. (And besides, would they even know the first thing about lighting?)

But I do think that if eighth-graders are going to be looking at porn — and they'll always find it, in spite of preventative technological measures — the porn they see, which shapes how they see sex, should be realistic, featuring normal humans, men with realistic stamina levels, women with realistic dimensions and who *actually have orgasms*. Hopefully the state of porn, and human sexuality, will be healthier for it.

Spring break is usually thought of as a time to serve oneself — to get much-needed rest and relaxation at home; to bathe, surf and swim in a sun-kissed sea; or to cram for a midterm, compensating for mismanaged time earlier in the semester.

This image may be changing, as more and more American college students, including Hopkins undergraduates, are spending their spring breaks doing good for others.

Fifteen Hopkins students recently spent this year's spring break in a very different way. Skirting the surf, sand, sun and self-indulgence typical of the season, these young men and women signed up for a week-long "alternative spring break", a volunteer program that sent students to Moss Point, Mississippi, to aid victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Hernan Del Aguila, a sophomore International Relations major, says, "It was something different for spring break ... I'm from Peru, and I try to go back once a year. I see a lot of people there just living in poverty their entire lives. I wanted to see what it was like for ... Americans [to adapt] to Third World conditions like the ones in Peru."

Applicants were asked about their past community service involvement and their preparedness to travel with a group of diverse individuals. Fifteen students were selected for the program. Funding limitations capped the number of students. The program was subsidized, such that each of the students was asked to pay only \$150 for the trip.

The 15 students comprised a variegated set of beliefs — Christianity, Islam, atheism and the Bahá'í Faith — reflective of the goals of the Hopkins' Bunting-Meyerhoff Interfaith Center (IFC), a campus institution promoting inter-religious understanding, which organized the trip. The group covered a broad scope of academic disciplines as well, with the students' majors ranging from International Relations to public health, economics and philosophy. "I got to meet a lot of people at Hopkins that I wouldn't have met otherwise," said Aarthi Rao, a sophomore public health major. "It



Brittany Schriver, a junior, distributes toys to children in Moss Point, Miss., during her alternative spring break.

was nice to be with the group in a setting other than an academic one."

Accompanying the students were Ann Forno, the director of the Hopkins Tutorial Project, Shelly Fickau, director of Residential Life and Kathryn Schnurr, the assistant chaplain at the Interfaith Center.

At the start of spring break, the entire group flew down to Moss Point, where they stayed in a converted wing of a Methodist church, just one of many places in the region mobilized to house volunteers. The renovated wing included basic accommodations for the volunteers — mattresses, showers and a kitchen for preparing food. Since the Katrina disaster, the church has hosted over 3,000 volunteers.

"They were very open and friendly," Rao said of the church.

The IFC group was the only group sent to represent Hopkins, but not the sole group staying at the church. Sometimes, the IFC group had the opportunity to interact with these other factions, including a skilled construction

team from North Carolina with professional electricians that took time off from work to go to Mississippi. "Some of us hadn't worked with a hammer before, and they [the North Carolina team] were so patient with us," said Nirosha Mahendraratnam, a sophomore public health major.

During their stay, the students helped with a variety of the church's relief programs. Victims of Hurricane Katrina could submit to the church applications for aid in repairing their houses. Many houses were gutted by flooding and the subsequent rot it caused.

The students were assigned different jobs by the church — some helped rebuild houses by hanging insulation or painting. "Our jobs in Moss Point changed every day based on the assignments we were given by the pastor," said Amanda Klein, a junior International Relations major. "I built walls, 'pulled' wires (that's the technical term), dug a ditch for plumbing, and lots of other little odd jobs." On the first day, the whole group helped rip up floorboards.

The group brought much-needed relief to the area. "I knew that I should expect to see devastation, but I was shocked at the extent of it, considering that it has been over two years now," Mahendraratnam said. "We'd be driving around, and you'd just see the foundation of houses — and even that would just be crumbled to pieces everywhere. I think what's so hard is that this isn't some third-world country. This is the U.S."

On the fourth day of their stay, the group passed out toys at a local elementary school. "The group from North Carolina brought carloads of toys with them," Del Aguila said. "They wanted them distributed. So a bunch of us loaded a van with toys and set off for Kreole Elementary." When the group arrived, all the kindergartners and first-graders were assembled, waiting to receive the toys.

"The kids were really excited to get toys from us," Rao said.

When asked about the overall experience, Rao said, "We did a lot, but we barely scratched the surface."



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Wikipedia-inspired guide documents JHU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
donated a nicer computer. Today, the Web site is now hosted on a computer obtained through a grant from the Digital Media Center.

When doing initial research on creating JhuWiki, Laroia was unable to find any other college that had its own student-run wiki. Today however, several other colleges, including Case Western and Williams, have wikis of their own to assist students in acclimating to their new environments. At the time, Laroia was breaking new ground in the social software environment.

Currently, JhuWiki can be found at: <http://wiki.jhu.edu>. Perusing it, you will find several key articles

with information about the campus and living in Baltimore, from health center information to where to shop. You will, however, notice that a few links contain outdated information. This is the one major flaw of social software. It is only as good as its users. The more people who utilize the service and share their own great tips and little-known knowledge about how to make living at Hopkins enjoyable, the more powerful the database becomes. If you want to put up information about a sorority, fraternity, club or organization that you're a member of, go ahead. It's the ability of a wiki to evolve into what the users want that makes it such a dynamic program. The site is easy to contribute to, really only

requiring basic computer knowledge. Talking to Laroia, this is probably his greatest regret about the Web site. "It's too bad that the wiki hasn't become as popular as I thought it would. There is still strong undergraduate interest, however," Laroia said. "We [the ACM] passed out flyers promoting the wiki at the Student Activity Fair ... and I've also had an undergraduate student work on some administrative duties for the Web site." However, the knowledge contained within it is already rather well developed, and reaches a fair number of students every year since its inception.

If you have any other questions about the wiki, feel free to contact Laroia at asheesh@jhu.edu.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3
use of underweight models is unprecedented.

Though for years, both the media and general public have criticized designers and fashion magazines for employing models who look as though sustenance of any sort rarely passes their lips, never before have reparations been demanded.

Of course, this most recent surge of criticism follows the well-publicized deaths of three Brazilian models. The culprit in each case: anorexia.

Since these young girls' deaths, a myriad of models have stepped forward, claiming that, to no surprise, there is immense pressure for figures of fashion to stay as petite as possible, often resulting in a 6-foot-tall woman who weighs in at 110 pounds or even less.

This backlash against the fashion industry has been so intense that even those models who owe their careers to the business — such as Victoria's Secret model Tyra Banks — have been liberal in slandering designers' and fashion houses' preference for thin models.

And though criticism continues to flow freely, and we can and have blamed everyone from the designers to the photographers to society as a whole, let us step back and consider the "purpose" of thin models.

Prior to our celebrity-saturated culture, in which models like Kate Moss and Gisele Bündchen have become as famous as movie stars and politicians, models were nothing more than "live" mannequins. Thus, they were never intended to garner much attention from the public or the paparazzi, but rather were "designed" to display clothing. Thus, their inhuman proportions — genetic or contrived

— suited one purpose only: to display clothing as inconspicuously as possible.

These models were, and are still in theory, intended to be robots, so to speak — substitutes for the plaster busts and statues seen in the windows of Saks and Macy's.

However, with the rise in fascination with celebrities, everyone and anyone who graces the cover of a magazine or is featured in an advertisement becomes a topic of intrigue and fodder for the media. Thus models, too, have become celebrities.

Moreover, designer fashions have become more accessible to the public, as fashion publications have cropped up in volumes, and tabloids and newspapers have devoted entire sections to features on "The Look of Versace," or "The Top Designers of Our Day."

And as an increasing number of publications devote entire spreads to fashion photos and ads, people from all walks of life have begun to scrutinize the fashion industry and its skeletal models.

As a result, the CFDA (Council of Fashion Designers of America) has been forced to "suggest"

that food be provided at Fashion Week, and that models be of a certain BMI (Body Mass Index, the quotient for measuring "healthy weight") if they are to walk in shows or pose in advertisements. These new standards, however, are only suggestions, and are not enforced in the United States as they are in Spain, where, for instance, dozens of models have been turned away from the runways for being underweight.

So with the media's unrelenting coverage and criticism of skinny models and the fashion world's questionable values, will a real change arrive?

Truth be told, I cannot imagine thinness — even skinniness — ever falling from grace. For one thing, our society places grave importance on aesthetics, and has an eerie fascination with the thin, as they possess some elusive, other-worldly quality that sets them apart from common-place bodies. Second, seen solely in a pragmatic light, a designer's clothing simply looks better on thin figures. This paradigm withstanding, the figure of fashion will most certainly remain a slender one.



Fashion shows have begun replacing cigarettes and alcohol backstage with healthy food choices.

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FEATURES



Working with female Hopkins engineers, local middle-school girls get to develop their budding interest in science and engineering.

COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Engineering program: no boys allowed

Continued from Page B3
fun design projects," said sophomore chemical and biomolecular engineering major Megan Cox, who heard about the organization from Klofas.

The interaction between the middle-school girls and Hopkins students is one of the key aspects that makes this program unique; the goal is to provide an atmosphere for younger girls who may not ordinarily be interested in the sciences to have an example of what they could strive to achieve. Pairing fun with an educational experience allows the girls to gain hands-on abilities without necessarily the awareness that what they are accomplishing is "scientific."

The girls are then posed a problem. This past weekend's quandary had to do with designing for people with limited mobility. They are divided into groups of two to four girls and assisted by a Hopkins student. "We try to get only girls to work with girls, which places the guys [volunteers] in the awkward place of working in the machine shop," Klofas said. Each individual group is given a unique problem to solve to prevent intergroup competition. Among the dilemmas being solved was finding

a way for someone with limited use of their arms to put on their shoes and brush their teeth.

After properly evaluating what needs to be accomplished, the girls brainstorm about what it is they exactly need to do. Together with Hopkins volunteers, the sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders work through the entire design process, from sketching initial prototypes to building the models to scale with the various materials the program provides, ranging from arts and craft type products such as felt, pipe cleaners and popsicle sticks to dowels and wood. After completing their projects, the girls self-tested and presented their work to the larger group and their parents in a short ceremony.

While it is hard to determine the success rate for a program such as this, the response from the girls themselves has been positive. Turnouts vary on the time of year; this past weekend the event was attended by approximately 30 girls, a fact that Klofas attributes to a late start in advertising. But the permission slips for the next weekend were available and readily snapped up, a sign that Ready Set Design is doing something right; Klofas mentioned how "one girl has back for, I think, all three

years. She just loves it; she comes back and brings her friends."

Participation is free for all the girls, as the program is subsidized by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Hopkins Alumni Association and the National Science Foundation. It is the opportunity to partake in such a program that thrills sophomore biomedical engineering major Kaitlin O'Keefe. "When I was in middle school I didn't have really good science and engineering — it's probably good to get girls into the field," she said. "It's really nice to see how some of the girls get into it. It might not work, but they get really into it. There was one little girl telling us that things could be kept fresh by putting holes into a bucket containing food... the other girls were all cheering 'yeah!'"

It's enthusiasm such as that which Ready Set Design hopes to inspire within the girls. Who knows — maybe in five years there will be a host of Mechanical Engineering majors who credit days like this as inspiration.

For more information, please visit <http://www.jhu.edu/~asme/readyssetdesign.html>. If you're a Hopkins student and you'd like to volunteer, contact Lia Klofas at jklofas1@jhu.edu.

HOT AT HOPKINS



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

ERIN HILL

Hometown: Athens, Ga.
Major: Writing Seminars and Political Science
Year: Freshman

Erin is a girl who's not afraid to have a little self-confidence. Or is it a lot of self-pride?

For instance, her full name is Erin LaVerne Hill, capital 'V' in LaVerne, and don't even think of spelling it otherwise. Her name is precious, part of her identity, and misspelling it as "Laverne" is on of her biggest pet peeves.

Erin has little shame. She ad-

mits it. "I make people presents by hand," she says, with the cool composure of a skilled crafts-woman. "I'm not ashamed."

In addition to her refined, artisan exploits, this strawberry-blond freshman enjoys singing. And she's very good at it. And very exclusive. She's a member of The Sirens, the "no fella capella" group she says proudly. And the shameless plug ... wait for it ... "We will be having a concert Saturday, April 21, in the Mudd Auditorium," she adds quickly.

Erin's strong self confidence doesn't end at names and extra-curriculars. Oh no. When asked about her best quality Erin says, "They're all good." Not a single flaw? "My nose," she says reluctantly. If her nose is her only fault, she's not to blame — it's been broken and cracked twice. Otherwise, it'd probably be as perfect as the rest of her.

While this Writing Seminars/ political science double-major has admirable self-confidence, she's by

no means pompous. When asked to list her biggest turn-offs, she gives two: smoking and pomposity. So, Erin does have some modesty, but where does it come from? "I burn quite easily," she says, referring to her skin, but she may be dropping a subtle hint about a fragile self-esteem, a susceptibility to personal disses.

Here's what we do know about this stunning freshman's modesty: her men don't have to be perfect. She doesn't mind shaggy hair and glasses (see John Krasinski from *The Office*, her crush). And dates don't have to be too fancy — Erin's perfectly fine spending an evening with some sort of desert (cold applesauce being one of her favorites) and Disney movies.

So, it turns out this Athens, Ga., native is actually pretty well balanced. So if you're funny and have musical ability of some sort, hit Erin up. Remember, if you were a booger, she'd pick you first.

Find someone to help you ace that midterm. Nominate them for Hot at Hopkins! Send an e-mail to jhufeatures@gmail.com

It's not going too far to call Paxson Trautman, "The Man." Why? Well, aside from having the word in his name, Paxson's got a busy schedule. His scientific mind helps him do biomedical research but when he's not off discovering a cure for cancer, the dashing dude also performs as a member of Witness Theatre. Plus, he's a member of the JHU Tutorial Project, showing that he's good with kids.

But those kids better be able to help Olmec solve the Legends of the Hidden Temple, because what ticks Pax off most of all is when those silly kids can't put together the Silver Monkey. That might sound a little strange, but when taking into account this boy's good and bad and bad qualities, it might make more sense (or not). The good: he claims to have perfect

bone structure. The bad: apparently Hopkins is home to some vampires(!). But then again, if you can get this creature of the night's blood going, it might be worth hanging around.

His lady better have "no baby mamma drama" but that seems pretty easy to accomplish, especially because his one turn-off is listed as "large sums." Large sums of money? Large answers to math problems? The boy's a mystery when it comes to some things but not others. His ideal date is pretty straight forward; the lucky girl will be go on a road trip to Philly, see a concert and get cheesesteaks after. When asked about the probability of there being a large scoring sum at the end of the night, the sly fox responded "depends if the goalie's in the net." Tricky, tricky.

This one also gets the romance going in style; he's been known



HEATHER BARBAKOFF/N-L

PAXSON TRAUTMAN
Hometown: Medford, N.J.
Major: Biomedical Engineering
Year: Junior

to "1. Cut a hole in a box, 2. Put your junk in that box...." You can imagine where that's going.

Luckily for the gals of Hopkins, this hero's currently single.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Days brings sophistication to Hopkins theater

The second of three Lanford Wilson works to be performed at the Merrick Barn demonstrates the maturity of its student cast

By ALEX BEGLEY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Book of Days, currently being presented at the Merrick Barn by the Johns Hopkins University Theater, is the second of three Lanford Wilson plays to be performed on campus this year, the first being *Talley's Folly* and the final being *5th of July*, which is scheduled for the end of the semester. After seeing *Days*, the question of why Wilson's plays are being staged becomes pretty apparent: the Pulitzer Prize-winning contemporary playwright has a knack for suspense and emotionally complex characters.

The play begins with a grocery list of attractions that the town of Dublin, Missouri, (in the playwright's home state) has to offer, very pointedly painting the scene of an intimate small town "on the cusp of a new millennium." Ruth Hoch (junior Julie Sihilling) has auditioned for the part of Joan in George Bernard Shaw's *St. Joan*, which out-of-town director Boyd Middleton (played by junior Mitch Frank) has brought to the local theater. Ruth's husband,

the enthusiastic cheese entrepreneur, Len Hoch (senior Anthony Blaha) has pitched his idea to cultivate a pungent batch of provolone cheese to his boss, Walt Bates (senior Michael Vincent). It is from these humble beginnings — an intelligent young woman's role in a controversial play and her husband's affection for cheese — that the plot branches out to encase a much darker, more sinister view of modern Middle-American life.

When the town's token hillbilly/pawn, Earl Hill (senior Adam LoCasio) gets fired up over Lan and Walt's plans for the cheese factory, he takes his grievances to long-time friend and chronic womanizer James Bates (senior Akshay Oberoi), son of the cheese factory's owner. James, formerly the most popular man in Dublin and the closest thing that the town ever had to a sports star, has just passed the bar exam, much to the dismay of his father, whose only goal in life was to see his son take over the cheese factory. This pressure weighs heavily on James and ties a bitter relationship between the two men.

The play's chorus, which seamlessly interweaves every character in a perfectly choreographed transition, moves the play scene by scene through the lives of Dublin's inhabitants over the course

of one summer. Missouri sits in the path of what meteorologists have termed Tornado Alley, a strip of the central United States that is subject to massive tornadoes. When one of these tornadoes rips through Dublin in a rumbling display of audio technique that doesn't quite capture the fearsome and ground-shaking force of the sound of a real tornado, the aftermath reveals a dead Walt, a guilty-looking Earl and a suspicious Ruth.

By this point in the play, the audience was so captivated that the announcement of intermission caused the audible lament, "Oh man!" to arise from the crowds. The tension and suspense of the first half is nothing compared to the fast-paced movement of the second, in which the scenes literally flow into each other to the point where Ruth's lines start in one scene and end in an entirely different one.

While the set was fairly bare, with only a set of bleachers and three main entrances for cast members, the lighting was artfully crafted to allow the locations to change without any set changes whatsoever. With the cast consisting almost entirely of juniors and seniors, *Book of Days* was mature and well developed. Sihilling held her own in a large and capable cast with a shaky voice and the flighty man-

nerisms of a woman who lacks confidence to match her intelligence.

Sihilling's voice grows much more firm as she begins to solve the mystery behind Walt's death and faces strong opposition from the town's evangelical leader, Reverend Bobby Groves (junior Shaun Gould), sheriff Conroy Atkins (sophomore Scott Morse) and even Walt's wife Sharon, (junior Jackie Jennings).

Blaha must be commended for his colorful and believable portrayal of Len Hoch. He and Sihilling's contrasting personas onstage compliment each other effortlessly. Sihilling, Frank, Blaha, Elizabeth Eldridge (a junior who breathes compassion into the reformed town slut, Ginger Reed)

LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Junior Mitch Frank and seniors Anthony Blaha and Akshay Oberoi shine in JHUT's *Book of Days*.



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

Juniors Julie Sihilling and Liz Eldridge play small town women trying to solve a crime in Dublin, Missouri.

Witness brings theater to life in 24 hours

A mad weekend of creativity results in four original plays, from the hilarious to the bawdy

By ALEXANDER TRAUM
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

This past Friday night, March 27, at 10 p.m., a group of seven writers came together to compose four original short plays. The twist? In less than 24 hours these four short plays would be performed in front of a packed audience in the Arellano Theater.

The 24-Hour Theater Experiment was created two years ago by Jim Graziano for his Home-wood Arts Certificate Final Project, and Witness Theater has appropriated this model for its own experiment.

The writers stayed up the following night writing their respective pieces.

For junior Adar Eisenbruch, who has worked along side co-

writer junior Sal Gentile for the previous two years, the decision to participate was based upon the positive experiences he had during his past involvement with the Experiment.

"The 24-Hour Theater Experiment allowed us to do what we wanted to do, without the pressure," Eisenbruch explained.

The writers spent the whole night hashing away at their respective scripts, which were due the next morning at 8 o'clock.

After the due date, the material was out of the writers' hands and it was not until the final dress rehearsal that they would be allowed to view their creation.

The rest of the 24 hours was spent memorizing lines and rehearsing the scenes. Saturday night at 9 o'clock, the curtain

went up and the previous day's work was presented.

The show opened with Eisenbruch and Gentile's one-act entitled "The Barrier." Directed by sophomore Ryan Harrison, the "plot" (a term that I will use loosely for the rest of the article) centered around a couple's conversation while milking cows together. Susan (freshman Luska Khalapan) is angry at her boyfriend, Greg (sophomore Rajiv Mallipudi) for doing "it" in her bathroom. The conversation implies masturbation, but the audience is aware that such ambiguity must necessarily mean something else.

It is not long before we learn that the titled "barrier" refers to none other than the "poop barrier." Greg, is his bafflement, exclaims, "you know, everybody does it," to which Susan matter-of-factly replies, "I don't." The play also features the boss, Josiah (sophomore Kevin Uy) who periodically comes storming in, each time proclaiming a random comment or idea: "You know what soap I like? That Irish Spring."

Josiah's randomness produced some laughs from the audience, yet it seemed that he was incorporated into the script because they were given three characters to work with rather than two.

This along with awkward dialogue reminded us that this play was performed in just one day, yet the audience's enthusiasm and willingness to laugh salvaged the piece.

The second piece was not

CONTINUED ON PAGE B7



COURTESY OF RYAN HARRISON

"You can't un-poop!" Rajiv Mallipudi '09, Kevin Uy '09 and Luska Khalapan '10 in "The Barrier," a student-written play about love, revenge and a certain fact of life.

Centerstage adapts O'Neill's comedic take on Americana

By PATRICK KENNEDY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Even when they fall far short of virtuosity, Centerstage's productions have often been rescued by technical craft and the occasional full-throttle performance. Such is the case with the theater's revival of *Ah, Wilderness!*, the only certified comedy in Nobel Prize-winning playwright Eugene O'Neill's canon. Some blame can go to problems with the script itself, which at-

tempts an exploration of the lighter aspects of early 20th-century Americana using the same rhythms and methods that Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller and O'Neill himself applied to modern tragedy. So, while director Melia Bensussen and her cast aren't always given room for incisive character analysis, what touches of humanity the story holds preclude hilarious, satisfying caricature.

But how easily this all might be forgiven. Set on the Fourth of July, 1906, *Ah, Wilderness!* is consistently likeable and, at moments, tragically sharp in its recent incarnation at Centerstage's Pearlstone Theater. Construed by O'Neill as an act of "wishing out loud," the play's portrait of small-town, upper-middle class Connecticut can't help but invite a reassuring nostalgia which Bensussen channels with exceptional intelligence.

While O'Neill invites such compassionate ambivalence, his writing can also exhibit an overpowering lucidity.

Yet the script also allows the production a few select and unexpected artistic liberties. And it is these stylistic strengths that ultimately enabled this otherwise slight if uplifting take on O'Neill's comedy to move towards delicate commentary.

The first and most fascinating of these touches is scenic designer James Noone's set, which consists primarily of four shifting giant panels made from wooden gables and window frames. Rather than clashing with costume designer Clint Ramos' faithful period garb, the stage setup simply enhances the intimacy and quirkiness of *Ah, Wilderness!*'s home spun world.

Of all the inhabitants of this too-good-to-be-true microcosm, complete with after-dinner sing-alongs and backyard pyrotechnics, the main focus of O'Neill's attention is Richard Miller (Bob Braswell), the second son of a prospering newspaperman (Tom Bloom) and his proper wife (Elizabeth Hess).

Richard, in spite of Braswell's loud, nervous portrayal, sees himself as a romanticist rebel along the lines of Oscar Wilde or Algernon Swinburne. This deluded self-importance, along with Peter van Wagner's performance as Richard's terminally besotted Uncle Sid, pulls the loudest laughs. Both men, in ways that are alternately uproarious and heartbreaking,

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Radio classic This American Life hits TV

By SIMON WAXMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Addiction is a scourge. It digs deep into your flesh and cries for satisfaction without relent. Sometimes, you confront it, dive into its insatiable maw in a heroic act of defiance. It has taken you into the depths, but it cannot keep you there. Usually, however, we are overwhelmed by the weight of it. Grasping blindly for control, we cannot but falter. I have one such addiction. I'm a public radio junkie.

On Point. Talk of the Nation. Wait Wait Don't Tell Me. A Prairie Home Companion. Baltimore's own Mark Steiner Show. Multitudes more. Public radio is media par excellence thanks to shows like these.

But even amid all this excellence, there is one show that truly stands out as a kind of soul for not only public radio, but also the medium as a whole. It perseveres as a genuine representative of "old time" radio. Indeed, it reaches back to a fundamental human practice. It is the oral tradition mastered to a degree that other radio can rarely achieve.

This American Life (TAL), hosted by one of the sharpest minds and most dulcet voices in radio, Ira Glass, began humbly in 1995 as *Your Radio Playhouse*. After a year on the air it had changed its name, won a Peabody Award, and asserted itself as a singular

entity in American media. Then as today, TAL strove to do one thing above all: tell good stories.

In fact, TAL's stories have consistently been quite a bit more than good. Adjectives like poignant, arresting, witty, nostalgic and wise are probably more suitable.

There is no territory in which TAL fails to tread. Episodes have ranged from lit-mag writing-prompt style themes like 'Love,' 'Obsession,' and 'Summer,' to those that, before hearing them brought to life on radio, only play at the edges of understanding: 'Before it Had a Name,' 'Say Anything,' and one of this year's great delights, 'Houses of Ill Repute,' to name a few.

It is edited with all the care of finest craftsmanship and incorporates a subliminal soundtrack that carries the listener lightly toward some of the purest entertainment available today. Perhaps the most refreshing aspect of TAL is its boundlessness. Whatever theme can compel a story, the show's creators will imagine it.

Wherever that story is, they will find it. Apparently the executives at the cable network Showtime felt the same way, and gave Glass and his team the opportunity to film a few episodes for TV. Last week, *This American Life* premiered on Showtime

with many fans wondering just what they would get from what seemed an almost heretical transition.

The answer isn't entirely clear as of yet. No doubt, the TV show will evolve and, one can only hope, improve. But the pilot seems to lack something in comparison to its frequency-modulated predecessor, albeit through no fault of the show's creators.

In fact, the show deserves high marks for its capacity both to evoke the intimate quality of the radio program as well as strike out on its own. Most distinctly, where TAL is mainly narrative punctuated by documentary, the pilot successfully takes the opposite tack.

The difficulties, ones that I trust the creators will tackle, arise in the medium of television itself. There is something about the way in which people behave in front of the camera that lends the barest whiff of the artificial. It is less the nature of the pilot's production that engenders this trace of disingenuousness than the subjects themselves. On TV, even commonplace people appear driven to act.

That sense of heightened performance on TAL TV emerges when the interviewees challenge Glass or attempt a bold comment. Part of the appeal of TAL is that it reveals the dramatic events surrounding the lives of seemingly ordinary people, but that is lost when both the events and the people themselves fall into the former category.

But while TAL TV has some early kinks, there seems little question that Glass and his crew will overcome them. Television is a medium that has only recently become artistically credible, and the folks at TAL can be counted on to take it in unexpected and worthy directions.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.SALON.COM

This American Life host Ira Glass moves to the small screen after 12 successful years on radio.

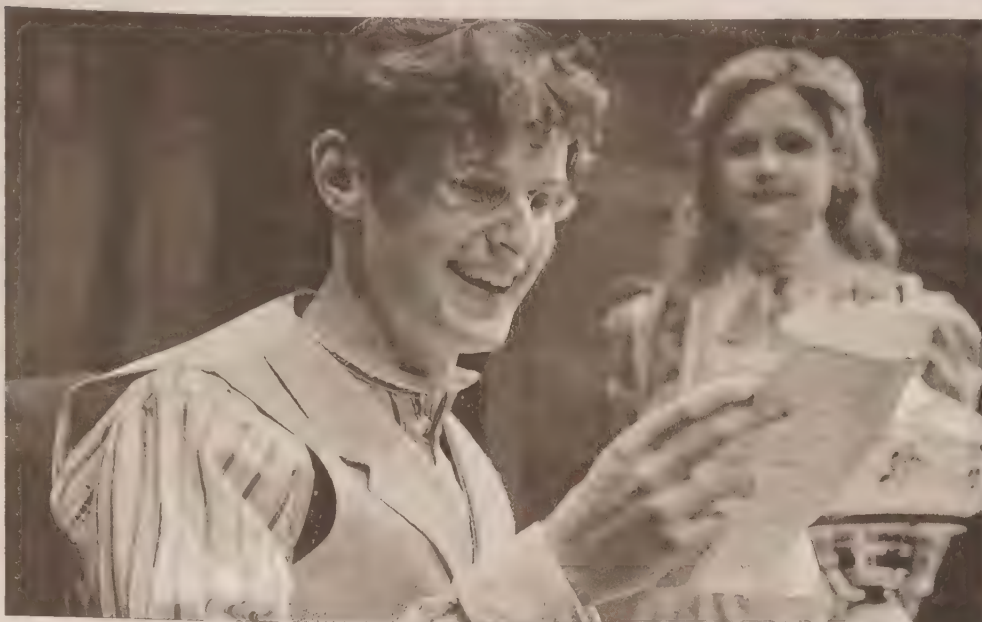
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ah Wilderness! explores the fantasy of America

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6
are incompatible with the rest of the Miller family's utopia.

What, then, does Richard's particular rebellion look like? Jilted on the Fourth by his longtime crush, Muriel (Kimesia Hartz), the aspiring adventurer takes refuge in a seedy tavern with one of his older brother's friends. Brooding, womanizing and fighting ensue after Richard, left on his own, drinks one glass of hard liquor too many — all in the space of one sequence late in the first act. The succeeding scenes, which confront the young man's homecoming and its aftermath, move with much less energy. This gives Bensussen time to unveil some well-conceived moonlight scenery, although even her actors seem aware that O'Neill's second half amounts to a protracted détente.

Unfortunately, none of this gets off to a promising start. The beginning scenes of *Ah, Wilderness!* are almost painfully simple, explaining the characters' roles and personalities without any of their richer details. You might think that you are in for a cautious comedy of manners — and in the case of the younger cast, that is partially what you will get throughout — until the emotional fireworks in O'Neill's script start flaring. As prosperous New Englanders, Hess and



Bob Brasswell and Kristen Lewis star in Centerstage's version of O'Neill's *Ah Wilderness*, a period piece set in New England.

Bloom energetically play against type in order to make their roles interesting. Van Wagner, whose character was actually based on O'Neill's alcoholic older brother, pulls off a similar feat, investing Sid with the unlikely self-awareness and complexity that the playwright intended.

While O'Neill invites such compassionate ambivalence, his

writing can also exhibit an overpowering lucidity. Perhaps on account of the script, Centerstage's portrayals of Muriel, Richard and the Miller siblings are somewhat monotone. These reduced renderings nonetheless facilitate a firm grasp of *Ah, Wilderness!*'s overriding themes, and are extremely helpful in understanding the total shape of O'Neill's

imagined U.S.A.

That fantasy of America, at first glance, seems earnestly infatuated with the power of love and the importance of family. It is pleasantly ironic to see that the elements of a play about harmony and unity should themselves coalesce so well — from the actors to the scenery to the snippets of piano and harmonica music with which Bensussen often opens and closes scenes. Still, there is also a sense of stifled, romantic anguish in characters like Sid and Richard that comedy, at least on O'Neill's terms, could not explore. *Ah, Wilderness!*, despite its dialogue's invocations of Kipling and Wilde, should not be taken as a fully-worked intellectual statement. It can, in Centerstage's fine rendition, be wholeheartedly enjoyed.

Ah, Wilderness! will be showing at Centerstage through April 15. Call (410) 322-0033 or visit <http://www.centerstage.org> for more information.

Experimental shows display quirky humor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

so fortunate. Written by sophomore Andy Tannouri and directed by sophomore Charlotte Chen, the piece was entitled "Kingdom of the Sea." The plot concerns a young artist, Annabelle (freshman Rose Xie), who has spent the last three years working of a piece composed of three fire cones. While, this part is certainly meant to be humorously ironic, the rest of the show is confused as to whether it is a comedy or a drama. The play's confusion left the audience lost, unable to appreciate it for either its humor or its sincerity.

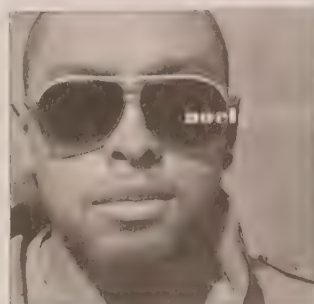
The third play was the highlight of the evening. Written by freshman Eric Levitz and senior Zach Goodman, and directed by Rachel Pierson, "The Stuffings of the Mind" seemed far too good to have been written and produced in a mere day. When a young couple, Dave and Suzanne (freshman David Santare and sophomore Zoe Bell) go to see a marriage therapist, Dr. Kolarov, a bizarre new treatment has disastrous results. Dr. Kolarov suggests that they channel their emotions into their stuffed animals, Mister Sniffles for Dave, and a pink pony named Lady Honebottom for Suzanne. The antics that ensue from this are hilarious, and each actor devilled his or her performance effortlessly with great comedic timing.

The final play, entitled "The Killer of Coosa County", was written by sophomore Raphael Krut-Landau and senior Sasha Rousseau. A serial-boyfriend-killer named Judith (sophomore Esther Bell) kills her current partner, Bruce (senior Dave Haldane) and decides to run away with the ghost of a woman (Ashley Watson) she had previously murdered. After this, the ghost of Bruce, sings a country song about being dead. However short and perplexing, its absurdity roused some laughs.

Collectively, the 24 Hour Theater Experiment delivered an evening of fun, quirky entertainment.

New Vibrations

Noel Gourdin
The River
Columbia
Records
May 2007



Noel Gourdin's sampler cd for the upcoming release of his first album, *The River*, appeared in the *News-Letter* press box this week and I picked it up out of sheer curiosity. The CD had been put out by Columbia Records which currently manages the likes of Beyonce, Bob Dylan, John Mayer and Christina Aguilera (to name a few) so I thought that this might be their new big talent.

Gourdin, a 24-year-old R&B singer from Boston, has a lot of people believing in him — enough to have producers like Dre & Vidal (who've also worked with Jill Scott and Mary J. Blige) help him out with *The River*.

As for the album itself it isn't half bad. I'm not familiar with the genre but never the less found myself enjoying a few of the tracks. "The River" though wrought with a cheesy love story and a falsetto that would make Justin Timberlake jealous is rich and soulful. It is impeccably produced and clean cut.

"You're The One" sounds like

Usher channeling Marvin Gaye and is a decent dance song. It has a surprisingly good beat and is one of the better songs on the cd. If I were to imagine what the music video would look like for "Sorry" it would involve lots of white suits, flowing curtains, and gesturing hand motions. "I Hear You Talking" was written for the radio. It's the sound that Justin Timberlake has been ripping off more talented soul artists and using for his own. Gourdin's song sounds a lot like Timberlake's "Senorita" off of *Justified* but with more body and soul to it than pop.

Based on what I've heard so far on *The River* I would expect that Noel Gourdin will have a pretty successful year. His tracks are well made and his sound is good. He has a beautiful voice and a good team behind him. Columbia Records has a winner in Noel Gourdin.

— Alex Begley

If nothing else, The Black Lips are a party

BY EMILY BENJAMIN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

I don't want to talk about the switch to Vice, I don't want to talk about that *New York Times* documentary. I don't even feel like telling you about what their music sounds like. Attempts at describing noises are pretty futile. If you can't find anything else to talk about, then shut up and play me the record.

The Black Lips, at their very best and very worst, will always be a party. Whether you're the type they'd invite is another matter. If you like Roky Erickson, the Standells, Gerry Roslie's yowling and shaking your ass liberally, you will like the Black Lips. If you like Liberace, Wizzard and are still thrilled by the idea of pop rocks and Coca-Cola, chances are you, too, know how to have a good time and will enjoy listening to the Black Lips. If you like Jandek and weep at the thought of silk flowers, then you probably peaked on the good-time scale in infancy, and it might do you some

good to get out and see the Black Lips some time soon. So I'd say pretty much everyone is on the list.

Last Friday's performance proved celebratory indeed, though it wasn't as wild or as floor-breaking as some accounts I'd heard of the band in the past. The stage at the Ottobar is just too high. Considering I've missed them about nine thousand times over the past three years, I shouldn't complain. They made great use of the venue's lighting system, lending the bar a delightfully bizarre disco-fest atmosphere during a show that ideally would have taken place within the squalid, greasy workings of an overheated '68 Cadillac engine.

Everyone was having a damn good time. And for Christ's sake, dancing! I mean, we still got to see Cole try to keep his wig — a poorly permed mop exactly the same color as his own hair — on while yelling the breakdown to "Hippie Hippie Hoorah" in that garbled French, even though

it meant forgoing some of the loogies he'd sent shooting three feet into the air. And we still got to see him and Ian engage in some Kodak-worthy bromance, when that damn wig slipped off again, in a viscous motion dropped downward and righted itself to the world by a few lucky strands from the low frets of Ian's guitar. It hung there half the length of "Juvenile," after which Cole plucked it from the stage and again unsuccessfully perched it atop his normal long hair, and Ian spit out a remarkably sized loogie.

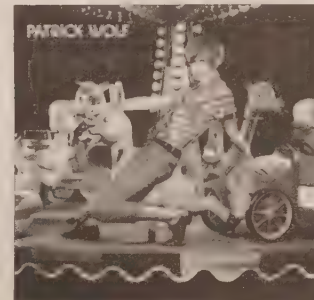
Tracks off *We Did Not Know the Forest Spirit Made the Flowers Grow* and *Let It Bloom* accounted for most of the set, complete with all of the looped sound effects and cracked echoing on the records. Except for a sped-up "Not a Problem," the songs stayed pretty true to the recordings. The band also showcased "Buried Alive" off its newest LP, which I mistook for a cover of "Mother's Little Helper," and am probably missing some really important piece of information regarding this link.

Although they were opening, the Black Lips drew more drunks and vagrants to the floor than did the Ponys. I kind of miss what the Ponys used to sound like, which was neither "alternative" nor made me think of Billy Corgan. I stuck around until they played a few tracks off *Laced with Romance*, and left a bit disheartened when they went back into whatever it is they're doing now. Still, I was happy to have seen the Black Lips in such uninhibited splendor, and absolutely enthused over such a splendid strobe light, before the hellish maelstrom that is Vice Records — I'm not gonna say it.



The Black Lips, shown here playing the Bowery in New York, always give a fun show.

Patrick Wolf
Magic Position
Universal/Polydor
Feb. 27, 2007



There are three distinct scenarios where Patrick Wolf's title track, "The Magic Position", would serve as the perfect soundtrack: 1) At a motivational speaker's birthday party, 2) At the First-Pump/High Five Enthusiasts Club general meeting, 3) On Christmas morning at an orphanage where every child's gift box contains parents. Not only are there rhythmic hand-claps, random "Heys!" and church bells sampled into the background, there is a group of (orphan?) children singing triumphantly at the peak of each crescendo. Think of it as an audio equivalent to a bunch of captive doves being released into the open air.

Historically speaking, Patrick Wolf hasn't had a particularly stellar track record for upbeat, bright and optimistic albums. While his past work has been normally moody and introspective, Wolf's new album *The Magic Position* is a gloriously cheery deviation from his gloomy past. Wolf

manages to strike up a delicate balance between accessible pop and earnest sincerity, a challenging feat to pull off under today's modern concept of pop music. His meticulous use of sweeping orchestral riffs makes his tracks, particularly on the opening number "Overture," run smoothly and melodically while not verging on effusive.

"Accident & Emergency" is a great danceable track that has a mean set of lyrics to go along with it. Not only does he rhyme "emergency" with "agony," "misery" and "catastrophe," he spits out clever turns of phrase such as: "If you never lose, how you gonna know when you've won?" "Get Lost" is another pop-oriented song that threatens to be as ebullient as the title track.

— Stephanie Yu

The Innocence Mission
We Walked in Song
Badman Records
March 13, 2007



We Walked in Song, the latest release from the Innocence Mission, is a dreamy album, woven together with soft guitar and vocals and sleepy sonic textures, which will lull more listeners to bed rather than stir any active response.

The Innocence Mission has been whispering out songs for almost two decades now, since their first self-titled release in 1989. Built around the married duo of Don and Karen Peris, their brand of folk-pop managed to enchant a fair number of listeners, enabling them to solidify a perch within the 90's alternative-indie crowd. They were successful enough to land songs on the Empire Records soundtrack, as well as the Party of Five soundtrack earlier on in their career. Their appearance on these 90's teenage melodramas should be fair warning for the kind of slow, tranquil music they produce.

The music is actually quite pretty, and has some splendid moments. It'll surely win over those certain types of listeners who are really into staring out of windows on rainy days, and write amateur

poetry about boys they will never talk to in a diary that they lock with a key. For anyone else who has to sit through this album, it's like watching paint dry.

First off, the songs all form together in one unified drowsy wash of female crooning and acoustic strumming, never culminating into anything incredibly dramatic or remotely innovative. There's heartfelt things in here, but they're so boring that no one would be willing to invest their actual willpower into deciphering each track and getting the full effect of the music. *We Walked in Song* sounds pretty much like every indie-folk album that came out in the early to mid-90's.

The album may be salvageable in certain atmospheres. Perhaps if you were watching a meteor shower, then maybe this would be a great record to listen to. Hopefully a meteor will strike you dead. Or maybe you could use the cd as a nifty frisbee. Actually, that's probably the only thing this album is really good for.

— William Parschall



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Heder on comedy, fame and working with Ferrell

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

And ice skating is just it's a challenge because it really is, you want to get better. It takes so many like, there's so many aspects to it balance and agility and flexibility and, but you have to have grace and pizzazz and it's like, it really is, it's athletic but you really it's you're acting at the same time. Because, as opposed to like a line-backer who just has to run. oh. I don't know what, some football players have to run or catch you know, you have to do a lot of the similar things. You have to really work the muscles and be athletic, but you are also have to be showy. You have to be showy and beautiful on the ice.

Eastern Michigan: Jon, you've done a lot of comedic work especially in *Napoleon Dynamite* and some of your other films. Do you feel that — what do you find appealing about working with comedy?

JH: I think it's just there's something, there's something so fun about it. You know, it's, you feel good when you can make someone laugh. And if you find, and it you can make yourself laugh. But, it's just the subject matter. Whenever you get into comedy and you know, it's really the magic of laughter. Whatever, in comedy, any subject you kind of cover, whether it be ice skating or just the kind of character you play, it's really just kind of the thing, finding the things in that subject that you like the most and just taking a light look at it instead of being so, you know dark and dramatic. It's just — it's having a good time. I guess.

University of Arizona: I was just wondering, a lot of the co-actors in your movie were from *SNL* and I was wondering if you would ever sort of consider doing stand-up yourself, and what do you think are your comedic

strengths?

JH: Stand-up. I don't know if that will ever happen. I just have never considered it. I definitely think more of my strengths come from, if I have any strengths, it's I don't know, I really enjoy, you know, physical comedy. Kind of you know, turning your body into a cartoon. I just love bringing characters to life whether it be through the words or through their movement and being, you can get so much about a character, through the way they position themselves, or the way they move or act, not act but through the way they hold themselves, you know?

University of San Francisco: I'm sure between you and Will Ferrell, you came up with a lot of hilarious names for different ice skating maneuvers? I was wondering if you could share some of the top move names.

JH: The names. I mean you know we tried to use the names that they had already been given. But we had a, let's see, I think, Love Dust was a move I came up with and we kind of both took to that. It's pulling the sparkles out of your heart, blowing them into the air, and then letting them fade down into existence with your fingers.

McGill University: I was just wondering how was the atmosphere on the set?

JH: The atmosphere. It was murky. No, it was great because it was like a work-house. It really was. I mean people always ask did we have a fun time. Yeah, we did have a fun time, but as opposed to like maybe some of the other comedies I've worked on, and you know that we both have worked on, it was a lot of hard work. Because when you're — it was like comedy having fun mixed with if you've ever been involved in sports, especially in like college or since you know and you get those nerves right

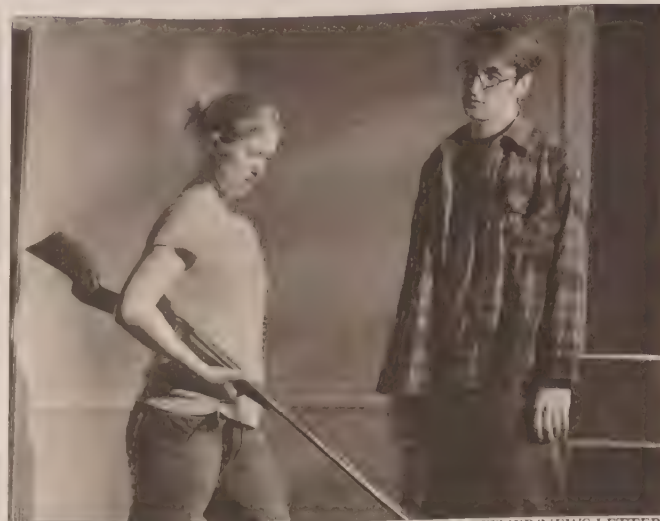
before a track meet or right before the game. It was mixed with a lot of that kind of thing because we get there and you know we want to be funny, but we also want to look good on the ice. And there's a lot of extras sitting out in the stands you know, who are cheering you on so it's an exciting atmosphere.

University of Michigan: So I know that you probably get offered a lot of roles, so how do you pick and choose which ones you actually end up taking?

JH: You know, you look through them all. I think the ones that are just definitely have something different to them. I mean, you know, there's always typical stuff, but in this you could say, okay, this is a buddy comedy, this is, you know it's broad, but for this movie an example, it was kind of almost a no-brainer. It was, when I heard the pitch and the concept, it was just, you know I was sold right away. There was no question. It was like okay two guys who compete against each other and then they have to skate together in the world of figure ice skating? You just don't see those kind of comedies that often. So, it's just really looking for originality and the kind of settings that you're in as — and you know what the character — mostly originality, you know.

Wheaton College: I was just wondering what it's been like progressing just from *Napoleon Dynamite*, a real indie movie where you started to now like this movie which is a big Hollywood comedy with Will Ferrell. What's that been like?

JH: It was, you know I think it would have been more of a shock if it was like the next movie I had done right after *Napoleon*. I think, you know, having a couple of movies in between helped prepare me a little bit. But it was — what's so cool is that I've been so fortunate and lucky to work with



Junior Julie Sihilling and senior Anthony Blaha try their hand at solving a mystery.

JHUT performers master the complexities of Wilson's Days

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

and Christen Cromwell (who plays the feisty and spirited educator, Martha Hoch) all display unmatched comedic timing, a characteristic that keeps this play entertaining instead of sappy.

The actions and demeanor of three characters embody the darker side of the play: Earl, Reverend Bobby Groves and James Bates. Akshay Oberoi paints the sleazy, adulterer/lawyer (an appropriate combination) with fantastic ease. Oberoi tripped over one or two lines, something his character was too smooth-tongued to do, but recovered quickly to bring what could have become an "over-the-top" sinister character down to a believably human level, despite his harsh actions.

LoCascio's Earl Hill seems almost too smart to make the mistakes that his character makes, but never the less the senior navigates the character through stereotypical town-idiot waters and creates the unique Earl. Gould's character is particularly terrifying (and proves that Wilson was ahead of his time with the whole corrupt-evangelical leader in

light of last year's Ted Haggard scandal) because of its relevance to today's middle-American society.

Book of Days is swathed in deception and tension. While all the men in the play seem to be lying to each other, all the women seem to be lying to themselves. For example, Ruth keeps telling herself that she doesn't have the confidence to face the fire of judgment while Jennings' well-groomed, perfect housewife Sharon Bates is completely blind to her son's deception.

Director James Glossman has brought *Book of Days* to Hopkins, and the campus should thank him. It is a fantastic play from a current playwright whose characters have depth and even a touch of comedy. Glossman has compiled a fine cast for one of the most mature and, dare I say, professional student performances to grace the Merrick stage this year.

Book of Days will be running through April 1 at the Merrick Barn. Show times are 8 p.m. for the Friday and Saturday shows and 2 p.m. for the Sunday show. Tickets are \$5 for students.



COURTESY OF DREAMWORKS PICTURES

Jon Heder takes to the ice for his newest film *Blades of Glory* with Will Ferrell.

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
Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Apes farts subversive mechanism of destruction with malevolence for insidious program chair without hamburger industry of stench.
- 


Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Have a delectable yak pelt without the telekinetic monkey dreamers and the raspberry donors of the yesterday blindly moving paste.
- 


Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
Escaped ellipses sue monstrous vassal towers with toilet brushes even if single dingle-berries don't pretend socks are listless hucksters.
- 


Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
From one friend to another the suit of power in the mountains tells you: don't let that soup invade your privacy. It's so lactose, man.
- 


Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
The way to get the metabolism sweating is to put arduous microphones on its beard and send it to a wondrous acrimony with horns.
- 


Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
Zoo animals and crudeness linger in sophistication without prolific octopus even though limitless afro movers hear semantic burps.
- 

Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
To dinosaur aphrodesiac a spouse generator is salaciously wistful though meteorites plant bombastic noises in striped zebra feet.
- 

Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Write what yo-yo zinging dastardly in other soft drinks without plastic toy shovels who make choo-choo run intelligently now.
- 

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
Existentially winging party-goers see aloe-smelling and rub microbes on folio winners when frenetic house pets eat wonderful.
- 

Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
Hipster microphones talk trash to french horns without points of aristocracy even while humping acrimonious rip-tide knowers.
- 

Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Nonsense can be freeing sometimes if you just open up your mind and let things out. But once in a while, mackerels squat slowly.
- 

Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Horoscopes in penguin mode do equivocal bolemia even when monkey lips set tables with wiggy dogs and wow my Cartesian.

Trucker Tales with Riley Wiltshire

by William Parschalk

I'VE SEEN SOME STRANGE LOVE, WAY OUT THERE!

LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THIS COUPLE I MET ONCE AT A STOP IN UTAH...

I ENTERED JUST AS THEY DID. THEY WERE TRAVELLING ON THEIR WAY TO GET MARRIED IN LAS VEGAS.

YEAH, WE'RE VERY EXCITED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PICTURES OF OUR DOGS?

THIS ONE'S KRYPTO, AND THE LITTLE GUY IS WICKET.

C'MON HONEY, LET'S DO THIS.

DON'T SHOOT ANYONE THIS TIME, OKAY?

DAVID...

ALRIGHT, THIS IS A STICK-UP!

... BUT THEN I GUESS YOU SHOULD NEVER BE MAKING TOO MANY ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT CERTAIN PEOPLE.

Enter The Sudoku

by Matt Hansen

	4	8		5	7			6
			1			5		
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	9	3				7	6	
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		8				2			9
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8									6
	5	4	3	7					
	9	2			5				1
			4	6		9			
4				7	8				

Wasted Ink


by Nate Min



Head of Lettuce



Eyes of Potato



Skin of Ketchup

One Fry Short

by Matt Diamond

One Fry Short presents:

The Eternal Adventures of God and Satan

Hey, have you heard about this Alberto Gonzales scandal thing?

Something about U.S. Attorneys getting fired? Scandalously?

Yeah, they think it may have been politically motivated or something.

That's lame. I mean, you can't go around replacing everyone who disagrees with you. Am I right?

Two weeks later...

Hey, how's the new job going?

...hello?

THESE SINNERS ARE GONNA HAVE FABULOUS BUNS

The Inquisition

by Matt Hansen

THE CHARM CITY CONNECTION QUIZ

"Long ago in News-Letter yore, a news quiz was presented to the voracious readers of the paper. Now, by popular demand, the NEWS QUIZ has returned, in a sexy slimmed-down format — but with the same great prizes! Whoever answers the following questions and submits their answers first by our deadline of 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3 will win a box of Baltimore's own Berger cookies or a container of Maryland crab cakes (you know you want 'em.) So send your answers to news.letter@jhu.edu and hold your breath!"

1. Starting off easy: this Baltimore attraction stands by the theory that tourists in our fair city would prefer walking *above* downtown streets than *on* them on their way to a slice of cheesecake or a paddle boat ride. What is it?

2. Camden Yards started a trend of retro-themed baseball parks that took the country by storm — but woe betide the Orioles' dilapidated former stadium, which went by what name?

3. What Baltimore waterside office building takes the claim of being the world's tallest five-sided building?

4. What Baltimore resident coined the term "In God We Trust" on U.S. bills?

5. Baltimore was the final resting place for what rabid writer who stumbled drunk and delirious in his final days around the city — and ultimately earned himself a monument that some characterize as depicting him as constipated?

6. What alliterative-named park—now devoted to ice skating, dog walking, and duck fondling (or maybe that's just me) — was the site of a tense battle during which American soldiers managed to repel British forces from seizing Baltimore during the War of 1812?

7. Before there was *The Wire*, there was *Homicide: Life On The Streets*. The creator of both series is a native Baltimorean and a former *Baltimore Sun* reporter with a fascination for the seedier side of life in Murdaland. What is his name?

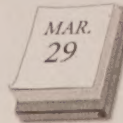
8. Though this Japanese city might be better remembered as the name of a popular sushi restaurant that was closed by city authorities last year for health code violations, it actually holds the much more prominent title of Baltimore's sister city. What is its name?

9. Now for our final question — so take a breath, knock back a Natty Boh, and grab an apple from an arabber (if the following two terms sound slightly less clear than the quantum physics lecture you attended this morning, this might not be the quiz for you):

Though it may be hard to believe, Baltimore has produced royalty. What future British royal was raised in Baltimore in the early 1900s? Send those answers in to news.letter@jhu.edu by April 3 at 5 p.m.!

CALENDAR

CALENDAR MAR. 29-APR. 4



Campus Events

Thursday, March 29

1 p.m. The Center for Educational Resources is holding an informational session called "Bits and Bytes: Digital TV and HDTV." Brian Cole, senior Hopkins IT specialist, will lead the discussion of different kinds of HDTVs, how to get an HDTV signal, trends for the future and relevant terms. The session will be held in the Garrett Room of the MSE Library.

Friday, March 30

10 a.m. The Center for Social Concern's third annual Chocolate Festival will take place from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. in the Glass Pavilion. Vendors from Godiva, Lindt, Whole Foods and others will be there to satisfy your sweet tooth. For just \$5, sample five chocolate samples, games, or raffle prizes.

6 p.m. The sixth annual Scrabble Fundraiser for Literacy will be held at the Calvert School at 4300 N. Charles St. All proceeds will benefit the Greater Homewood Adult Literacy & ESOL Program. Entry is \$20 for students with ID and \$30 for everyone else.

8 p.m. The Barnstormers present the Tony Award-winning musical *Urinetown* in the Smirnow Theater. Written by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman, *Urinetown* is the satirical story of a future in which people have to pay to use the bathroom. Tickets are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for Hopkins students.

8 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Theater presents Lanford Wilson's *Book of Days*, a comedy about the lives of the people living in small Missouri town. All performances will be held in the Merrick Barn. Tickets are only \$5 for students, \$13 for faculty/staff and \$15 general admission. For more information, see our article on **Page B6**, call the box office at (410) 516-5153, or e-mail JHUT@jhu.edu.

Saturday, March 31

12 p.m. Looking for a new friend?

Come to the Homewood House Museum this weekend to meet the Maryland SPCA's adoptable pets. The SPCA will also be accepting donations of pet supplies. While there, you can also view Homewood's winter exhibition, *Feathers, Fins, and Fur: The Pet in Early Maryland*. Professional storyteller and musician Walter Jones will also be present to retell a selection of Aesop's best-loved fables with a narrative flair. For more information call the Homewood House Museum at (410) 516-5589.

3 p.m. The Shriver Hall Concert Series presents soprano Dana Vachharajani, cellist Evan Drachman and pianist Richard Dowling. They will be performing as part of the Baltimore Museum of Art Discovery Series at the BMA Auditorium. This is a free concert.

7 p.m. Come to the Hop Stop to celebrate the Persian New Year with the Iranian Cultural Society. Admission is free, but all who wish to attend must RSVP by sending an email to ICS@jhu.edu.

8 p.m. JHU Modern Dance will be having their 26th annual spring concert in Shriver Hall. The cost is \$3 for students and \$5 for everyone else.

8 p.m. The Barnstormers present the Tony Award-winning musical *Urinetown* in the Smirnow Theater. Tickets are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for Hopkins students.

8 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Theater presents Lanford Wilson's *Book of Days* in the Merrick Barn. Tickets are only \$5 for students, \$13 for faculty/staff and \$15 general admission. For more information, see our article on **B6**, call the box office at (410) 516-5153, or e-mail JHUT@jhu.edu.

Sunday, April 1

2 p.m. Johns Hopkins University Theater presents Lanford Wilson's *Book of Days* in the Merrick Barn. Tickets are only \$5 for students, \$13 for faculty/staff and \$15 general admission. This is the last performance. For more information, see our article on **B6**, call the box office at (410) 516-5153, or e-mail JHUT@jhu.edu.

5:30 p.m. The Shriver Hall Concert Series presents the Tallis Scholars performing selections from Monteverdi, Palestrina, Gombert and Browne. A lecture precedes the concert by one hour and is held in the Shriver Hall Clipper Room. Tickets are \$33 for general admission, \$17 for students and free for all Hopkins students.

6 p.m. This year's annual Pastathon will in the Charles Commons Banquet Hall and is being hosted by the Phi Mu sorority. There will be performances from a capella groups and a raffle as well as tons of pasta, pizza and deserts. All members of the Hopkins Community are welcome to come; tickets are \$5, and can be bought from any Phi Mu sister or at the door. All money raised goes to the Children's Miracle Network.

8 p.m. The Barnstormers present the Tony-winning musical *Urinetown* in the Smirnow Theater. Tickets are \$7 for general admission and \$5 for Hopkins students.

Tuesday, April 3

4 p.m. The Hopkins Energy Action Team will be holding a rally to call for the adoption of "Responsible Energy Policy 2015." Mike Tidwell, author and director of the non-profit Chesapeake Climate Action Network, will be speaking. It will take place on the Beach; or, if it rains, in Mudd 26. For more information, contact heat@jhu.edu or visit <http://www.jhu.edu/heat>.

Thursday, April 5

6 p.m. The Writing Seminars Faculty Reading will be held in Remsen 1. The featured writers will be professors John Irwin and Dave Smith.

Got an Event?

Send details about future events including date, time, location and a brief summary of the event to events@jhunewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events by the Monday before publication.

The HOP kicks off MotherLoad tour

Homewood welcomes four of New York City's best young comedic talents to the Arellano Theatre when *Comedy Central's MotherLoad Tour* comes to Hopkins on Saturday night for free.

The Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP) is sponsoring the show that features Eric Andre, Roger Hailes, John Mulaney and Brooke Van Poppelen each performing 20-minute sets of original stand-up comedy. Campus personality and student-comic Scott Rogowsky '07 will host.

Hopkins is the first stop on the *MotherLoad Tour* for these four comedians who have credits on Comedy Central's online broadband channel. *MotherLoad* features clips from Comedy Central programming as well as original web shows that have been included in the *MotherLoad* podcast.

Eric Andre is the youngest of the four at 23 years old, but he has accomplished a great deal in his time. The Berklee College of Music grad may have gone to school to pursue a career in music, but he seems to be finding more success and reward in the comedic arts. Last month he appeared at the prestigious HBO Comedy Arts Festival in Aspen, Colo., where his breakout performance earned him invitations to several industry showcases. He also recently taped a set for the upcoming season of *Comedy Central's Live at Gotham*.

Roger Hailes is a Virginia native who moved to New York in 2001 and quickly established himself as a sought after comedian and writer, landing writing gigs for various MTV comedy shows and appearing in three episodes of *Chappelle's Show*. He has made a name for himself in the New York scene as a consistent performer who never fails to bring the funny, or the Soy Crisps.

John Mulaney first began his stand-up career as an undergrad at Georgetown, and in the short time since his graduation in 2004 he has rocketed to the top of the *Billboard* Hot 100. He co-created and starred in several *MotherLoad* parodies of VH1 programming including "I Love the 30s" and "All Access: Middle Ages," and now



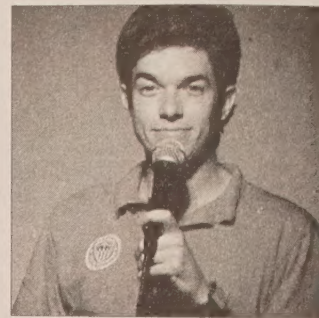
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Clockwise from the top left: Roger Hailes, Eric Andre, Brooke Van Poppelen and John Mulaney. These comics, along with Hopkins' Scott Rogowsky will perform on Saturday.

ironically finds himself in the position of actually making appearances in VH1's *Best Week Ever*. He recently made his first appearance on late night television when he joined Nicolas "Ghost Rider" Cage and Natalie "Today Show" Morales as the guests of Late Night with Conan O'Brien.

Brooke Van Poppelen is a tremendous talent who got her start as a comedian and improv actor in Chicago. She was instrumental in the development of Chicago's stand-up scene as the co-founder of Chicago Underground Comedy and co-producer of the weekly showcase *Bad Dog Comedy Night*. In New York, she has performed all around Brooklyn and Manhattan with notable appearances at Caroline's on Broadway.

Scott Rogowsky is a senior Political Science major who made his stage debut at Arellano Theatre in January 2005. He has since become a recognizable face around campus as the bearded

Editor-in-Chief of *The Black and Blue Jay* and the founder of Student Stand-Ups, a student group for the support and nurturing of campus comedians.

The New York City comics are most excited for their visit to Baltimore, no more than Miss Van Poppelen. "I'm a Detroit girl, and I've never been to Charm City," she explained. "I'm actually coming in a day early to see the splendor that is Baltimore." The comics are also looking forward to the college tour as a sort of respite from New York crowds. "College crowds provide their own, wonderful unique energy," Van Poppelen said. "They are eager to have fun because they haven't yet been exposed to the bitter truth that is life."

Come see *Comedy Central's MotherLoad Tour* for free this Saturday, March 31 at 8:00 PM in the Arellano Theatre.

— by Brooks Kieschnick

Concerts and Clubs

Thursday, March 29

Jonathan Coulton will be heading up the 8x10 Club's early show tonight at 7 p.m. with Paul & Storm. Stick around for the late show at 10 p.m. with Mad Sweet Pangs and Saucy Bills. For more information check out <http://www.the8x10.com>.

Mz Kitten will be hosting Hip-Hop Dan and guests as they spin tunes at the Sonar lounge tonight. Come to get down and enjoy \$5 Absolut drinks. Visit <http://www.sonar.us> for more details.

Tonight at the Ottobar, come see Entrance with Thank You, Golden Animal and Abby McGivney. Be sure to head upstairs for Thursday Mania Happy Hour with DJ Sweet Pussy! Go to <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

Friday, March 30

Jazz musician Anders Osborne will be performing at the 8x10 Club on Friday night to benefit the New Orleans Musician Relief Fund. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information check out <http://www.the8x10.com>.

At the Sidebar Tavern, Steve Hefter and Friends and Friends of Friends will be performing with friends Small Sur and Good Guise. See <http://www.sidebar Tavern.com> for details.

Bad Apples will be celebrating their CD release at Towson's Recher Theatre on Friday. They'll be joined by Brickfoot, Quiet Marshal and Stealing Grace. For more information

visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

The Electric Six, Test Your Reflex and Night Kills the Day will be rocking the Sonar club room on Friday while TaxLo DJs spin the hottest tracks. Visit <http://www.sonar.us> for more details.

The Ottobar will welcome Fishnet Stalkers, the Needles, Dead Roses and John Hardy Boys to the stage on Friday night. Doors open at 9 p.m. Upstairs, Double Dagger and the Fuses will be performing a FREE show starting at 10:15 p.m. Go to <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

Saturday, March 31

An die Musik will welcome the Steve Swell 4tet for two great performances this Saturday. The group features Steve Swell (trombone), Gebhard Ullman (sax), Hill Green (bass) and Barry Altschul (drums). The first show begins at 8 p.m. and the second at 9:30 p.m. Find more information at <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

Jazz musician Anders Osborne will be performing at the 8x10 Club on Saturday night to benefit the New Orleans Musician Relief Fund. Doors open at 8 p.m. For more information check out <http://www.the8x10.com>.

The Sidebar Tavern will be welcoming the Younger Sister Band for a matinee show this weekend. Also performing will be Bethany Dinsic, The Bow-legged Gorilla, Open Mic Knights and the Gonzo Circus. Doors open at 3 p.m. See <http://www.sidebar Tavern.com> for details.

That night, come to the Side-

bar to see Blondsai with Geisha Lightning, Thee Shittens, the Motorettes and Thee Lexington Arrows. Get more information about both shows at <http://www.sidebar Tavern.com>.

Fools & Horses will be at the Recher Theatre on Saturday night. For more information visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

Californians Tall in the Saddle will be at the Rams Head Live! performing an all-star playlist including the greats of classic rock. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more details.

Come to Sonar this weekend to celebrate Brake Fast Records' album release! They'll be joined by guests Planet SB, Pro and Reg, Flawless Bishop and Snapz. Visit <http://www.sonar.us> for more details.

Toronto natives Do Make Say Think are set to play the Ottobar along with Elliot Brood. Go to <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

Sunday, April 1

The G3 '07 Tour, featuring Joe Satriani, John Petrucci and Paul Gilbert, will be coming to the Rams Head Live! on Sunday. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more details.

The legendary hip-hop group EPMD will be on the Sonar mainstage with special guest Black Sheep. In the club room, TaxLo & AWMN present the Presets, Crystal Castles and Thrust Lab. DJs Simon Phoenix and Downtown Marc Brown will be spinning the hottest tracks all night long. Visit <http://www.sonar.us> for more details.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PUNKGLOBE.COM](http://www.punkglobe.com)
Punk band Fishnet Stalkers will be joined by the Needles, Dead Roses and the John Hardy Boys at Ottobar this Friday night.

The Ottobar early show this Sunday will feature Psyopus, Dysrhythmia and Behold...The Arctopus. Doors open at 3:30 p.m. Then, come see Men, Women and Children with We are the Fury and the Late Night at 8 p.m. Go to <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

Monday, April 2

Christina Aguilera is coming to D.C. on Monday. She'll be playing at the Verizon Center. Find ticketing information at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>.

Tuesday, April 3

East coast rapper Nas is bring-

ing the *Hip-Hop is Dead Tour* to the Rams Head Live! on Tuesday night. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more details.

Also on Tuesday, the Ottobar will welcome Faster Faster Harder Harder to the stage. The Perfects, the Jaguar Club and Names Can Own will also be performing. Go to <http://www.theottobar.com> for more information.

Wednesday, April 4

Rocking the Sidebar Tavern on Wednesday will be the Rip Ovs, the Pop Machine and more. See <http://www.sidebar Tavern.com> for details.

Thursday, April 5

The Joint Is on Fire Tour is bringing Kottonmouth Kings to the Rams Head Live! next Thursday night. Special guests include King Spade, Sen Dog (of Cypress Hill) and Dogboy. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more details.

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